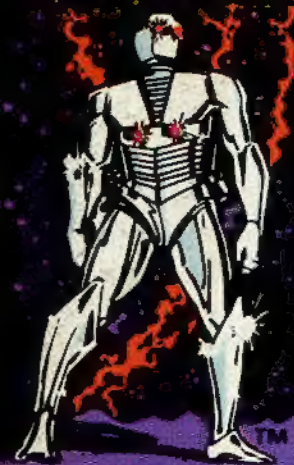


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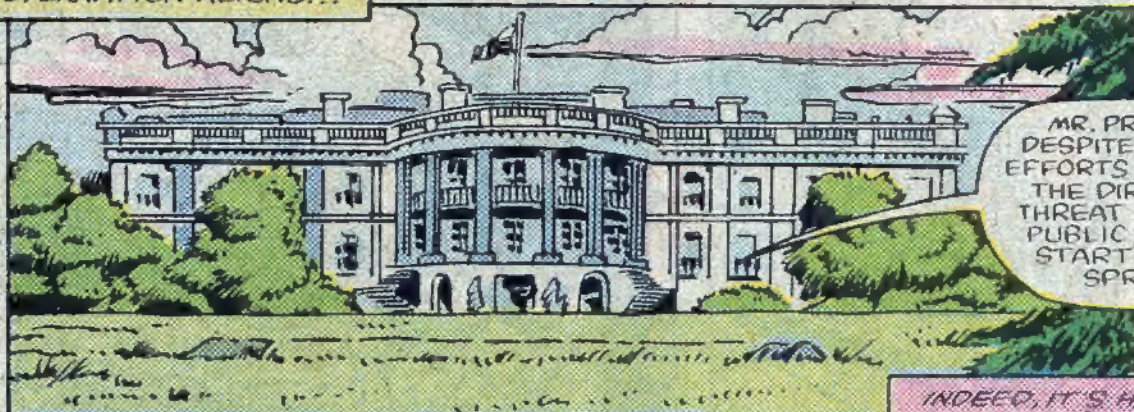
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THE WHITE HOUSE, WHERE
CONSERVATION REIGNS...



MR. PRESIDENT,
DESPITE OUR BEST
EFFORTS TO CONCEAL
THE DIRE WRAITH
THREAT FROM THE
PUBLIC, PANIC IS
STARTING TO
SPREAD!

INDEED, IT'S HARD TO
HIDE WHAT'S HAPPENED
AT MERCY HOSPITAL IN
THE STUNNED CITY OF
ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

MY GOD, IS
THIS PLACE A
HOSPITAL--OR
A MORGUE?!

KEEP LOADING
THOSE AMBULANCES.
THERE ARE MORE
BODIES IN THE
OTHER WINGS.

KEEP
BACK! THIS
AREA IS
CLOSED FOR
SECURITY
REASONS!

SECURITY?!

BUT MY
HUSBAND'S
A PATIENT
IN THERE!

AND MY
WIFE!

YOU CAN'T
CENSOR THE
PRESS!

WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO HIDE?!

BODIES?
BODIES OF...
WHAT?!

QUIET!
YOU WANT
TO START
A PANIC?

I GOT NEWS
FOR YOU, PAL--
ONE'S ALREADY
STARTED!

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EMERGING FROM MERCY HOSPITAL, PATIENT RYON JONES TURNS TO THE COMMANDER OF THE WRAITHHUNTER RANGERS, GENERAL LOCKLIN, AND ECHOES THE QUESTIONS OF THE CROWD...

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE, GENERAL? IT'S PLAIN TO THE ENTIRE CITY THAT SOMETHING AWFUL HAPPENED HERE AT MERCY HOSPITAL TONIGHT!

SURE, JONES. THE PUBLIC FIGURES PLAGUE, OR THE SPREAD OF SOME NEW, UNKNOWN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.



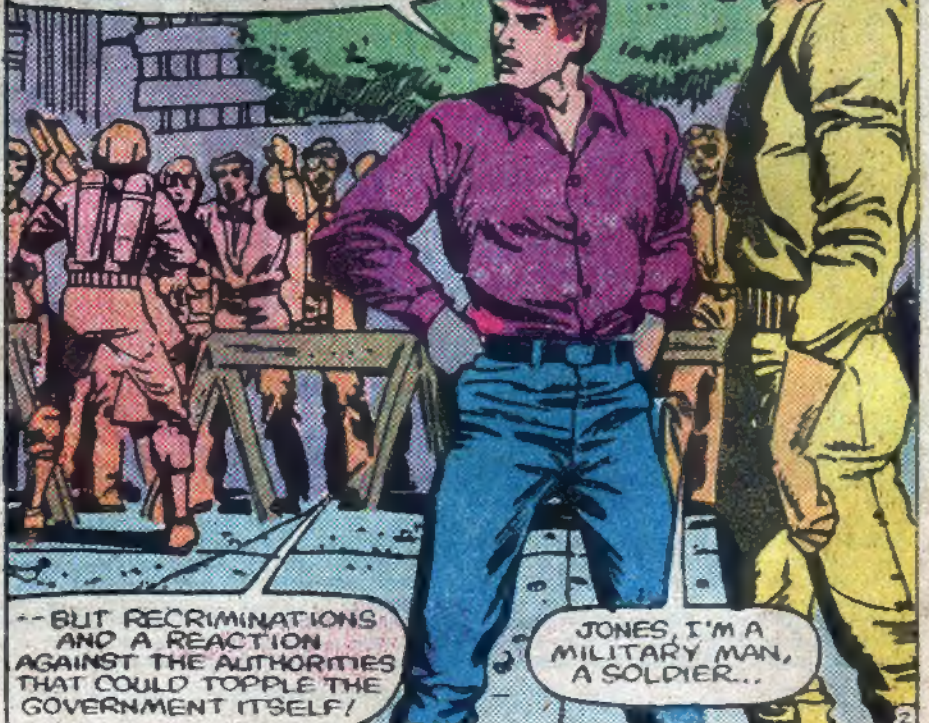
I'D RATHER HAVE 'EM SCARED OF SOMETHING THEY CAN AT LEAST COMPREHEND THAN LEARN THE TRUTH...

... THAT THEIR LOVED ONES, THEIR FRIENDS, WERE TURNED INTO HOWLING HORRORS BY WRAITH-TAINTED BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS!*



*LAST ISH--MAC

BUT HOW CAN THE GOVERNMENT EXPECT TO KEEP ALL THIS DEATH, ALL THIS DESTRUCTION FROM THE PEOPLE FOR LONG? THE PUBLIC'S GOT TO FIND OUT, AND WHEN THEY DO, YOU'LL HAVE NOT ONLY A NATIONWIDE PANIC ON YOUR HANDS, GENERAL--



-- BUT RECRIMINATIONS AND A REACTION AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES THAT COULD TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF!

JONES I'M A MILITARY MAN, A SOLDIER...

... NOT A POLICY-MAKER.
CIVILIANS GIVE THE ORDERS
AND I JUST CARRY 'EM OUT.

LOOK, IF IT WERE UP
TO ME I'D SHOUT THE
NEWS OF THE WRAITH
INFILTRATION OF EARTH
FROM EVERY ROOFTOP--

-- AND
ARM THE
CITIZENRY
TO HUNT
THE SPACE-
SCUM DOWN!

I DON'T LIKE
HIDIN' THE TRUTH
FROM THE PEOPLE
ANY MORE THAN
YOU DO...!

YOU THERE!
FOR GOD'S SAKE,
MAN, WATCH THAT
SHEET...!!

GENERAL
LOCKLIN'S
CRY COMES
TOO LATE,
FOR THE
DEATH-SHROUD
BLIPS, REVEAL-
ING THE CORPSE
IT COVERS...

... AND A COLLECTIVE
GASP GOES UP FROM THE
CROWD ASSEMBLED.

BUT YOU TELL ME, JONES, HOW ANY GOVERNMENT CAN
REVEAL TO ITS PEOPLE THAT THEY'VE BEEN INVADED BY
ALIENS THEY CAN'T SEE TO FIGHT, AN UNEARTHLY ENEMY
CAPABLE OF TURNING THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY
INTO FIENDS?

HOW COULD ANY
SOCIAL ORDER SURVIVE
THAT KIND OF SHOCK? WE
COULDN'T! WE'D FALL
APART, AND THE WRAITHS
WOULD MOVE IN AND
TAKE OVER!

NO, OUR ONLY HOPE
IS TO CONVEY TO THE
PUBLIC SOME SMALL SENSE
OF WHAT'S HAPPENING,
AND THAT THE AUTHORITIES
ARE DEALING WITH IT!
IT MAY BE A LIE, BUT
AT LEAST IT'S LESS
PRONE TO CAUSING A
WORLDWIDE PANIC
THAN THE TRUTH!

YOU'RE WRONG, GENERAL!
OUR ONLY HOPE NOW
RESTS WITH...

ROM, GREATEST OF THE
SPACEKNIGHTS!

CLEAR WATERS REMEMBERED!

GUEST-STARRING ALPHA-FLIGHT!

THE BEAVERKILL VALLEY IN NORTHERN ONTARIO WAS ONCE AS PRETTY AS A PICTURE POSTCARD, BLESSED WITH BLUE SKIES RISING FROM BLUE WATERS, A PLACE OF WHICH ANY CANADIAN PROVINCE COULD BE PROUD.

THAT WAS HALF A CENTURY AGO, HOWEVER, AND A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN FIFTY YEARS...

WHY HAVE WE COME HERE, ROM? WHY HAVE WE LEFT OUR BATTLE AGAINST THE DIRE WRAITHS--

--TO STAND AND PONDER THIS MAN-MADE HELL ON EARTH?!

YES, AND EVEN THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO DWELL BENEATH ITS OMINOUS BLACK WATERS NOW CHARACTERIZE THE BEAVERKILL VALLEY AS A PLACE--

--WHERE NOTHING LIVES BY CHOICE THAT LIVES HERE AT ALL.

FUN FOR EVERYONE!

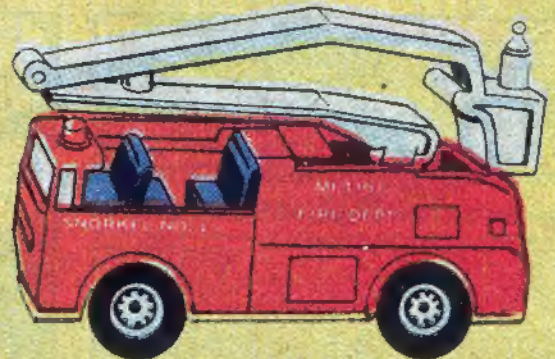
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I DEMAND AN ANSWER, ROM! WE ARE SWORN TO ERADICATE WRAITHKIND!

EVEN NOW, S.H.I.E.L.D.'S ESPER UNIT SEEKS SIGNS OF THEIR ALIEN ACTIVITY ON EARTH...!

THEY FOUND SUCH INDICATIONS, STARSHINE... HERE.

"HERE" IS THE TINY TOWN OF BEAVER FALLS, WHILE NEVER TRULY PROSPEROUS, IT WAS ONCE MUCH MORE THAN IT IS NOW, IN A DAY WHEN COAL WAS IN GREAT DEMAND AND THE BEAVER LAKE MINING COMPANY RIPPED THE EBONY ORE FROM THE VALLEY'S HILLS.



NOW BEAVER FALLS IS A PRIME IMPORTER OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, A PRIME EXPORTER OF UNEMPLOYMENT...



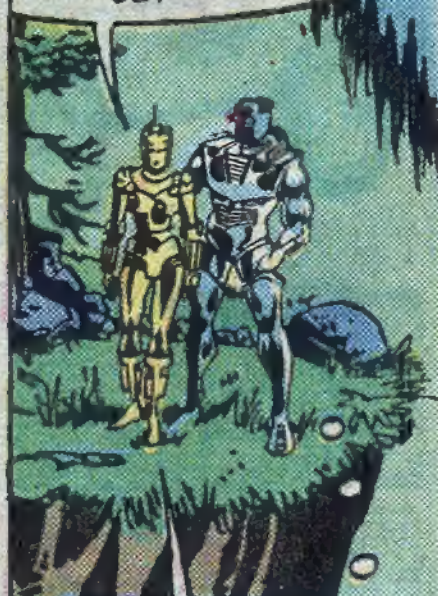
THIS IS A TOWN CHOKING UNDER A BLACK SHROUD OF COAL DUST THAT HIDES NOT ONLY ITS INHABITANTS' HUMAN MISERY--

-- BUT WHATEVER EVIL OUR ALIEN ENEMIES, THE DIRE WRAITHS, WOULD WORK IN THIS BLEAK VALLEY, AS WELL.



WRAITHS!

IF THOSE SPACE-SCUM SLINK IN SHADOWS HERE, MY LIGHTYES SHALL SURELY SEEK THEM OUT--



--AND STRIKE THEM DOWN AS THOSE MONSTERS STRUCK DOWN ALL THOSE I'VE EVER LOVED!

AYE, STARSHINE, YOU HAVE SUFFERED MUCH IN THIS WRAITH WAR.

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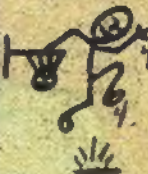
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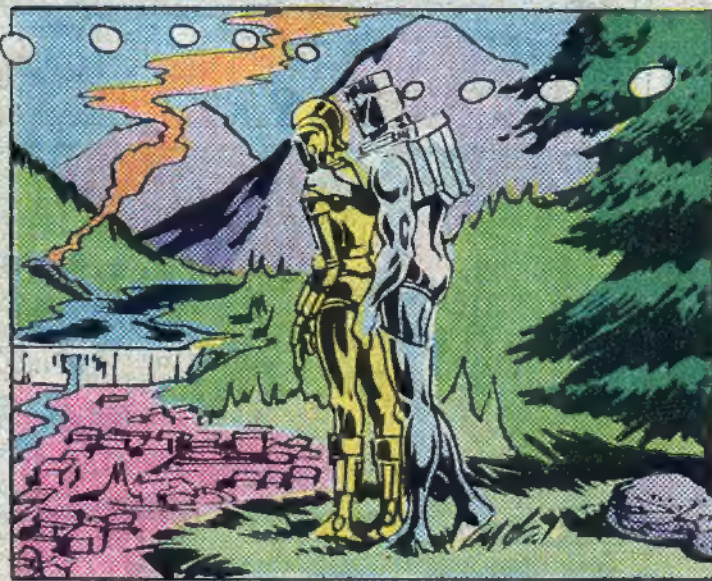
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YOU LOST NOT ONLY YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES IN A WRAITH ASSAULT ON JUST SUCH A COMMUNITY AS THIS ONE LYING BELOW US...

BUT YOU LOST YOUR HUMANITY, AS WELL, BECOMING A COLD CYBORG KILLING MACHINE--
--EVEN AS I AM--
THAT YOU MIGHT REVENGE YOURSELF ON WRAITHKIND.



AH, BRANDY, MY LOVE, MY LIFE, IF YOU DO NOT REGAIN SOME MEASURE OF THE HUMANITY YOU BARGAINED AWAY FOR THE POWER TO SLAY THE WRAITHS...

... HOW MUCH WILL WE BOTH HAVE LOST!

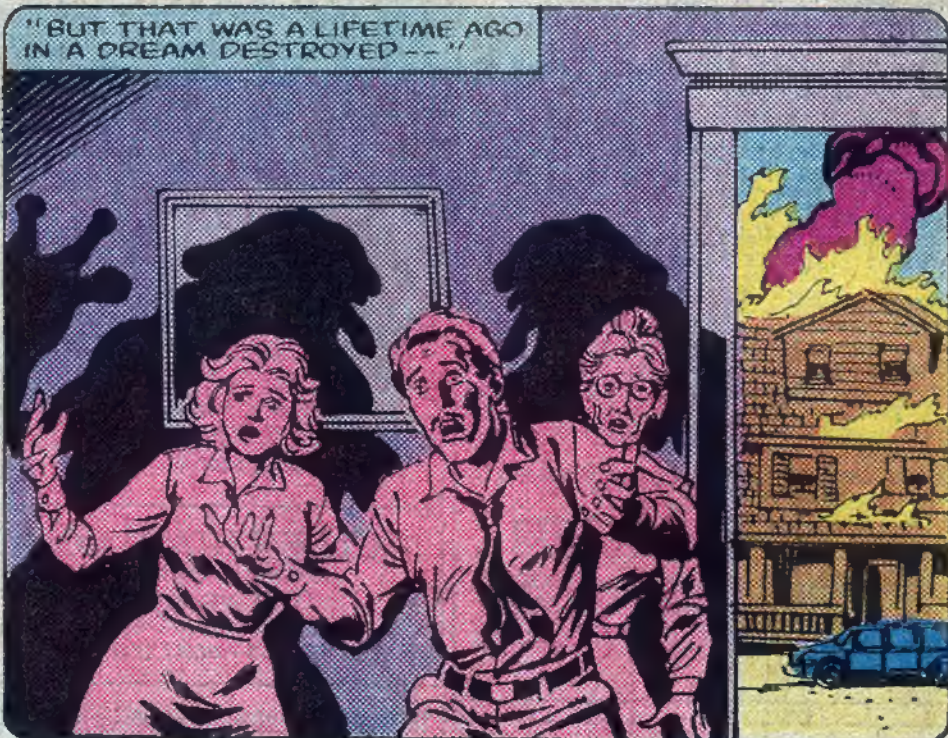
ROM'S UNSPOKEN GRIEF SEEMS TO RESOUND IN STARSHINE'S CYBORG BREAST, AS WELL...

OH, ROM, CLAIRTON WAS ONCE A... LIVING TOWN.

WE LIVED THERE, FELL IN LOVE THERE...

YES.

"BUT THAT WAS A LIFETIME AGO IN A DREAM DESTROYED--"



-- BY VILE, STINKING, SHAPE-SHIFTING WRAITHKIND!

BRANDY!

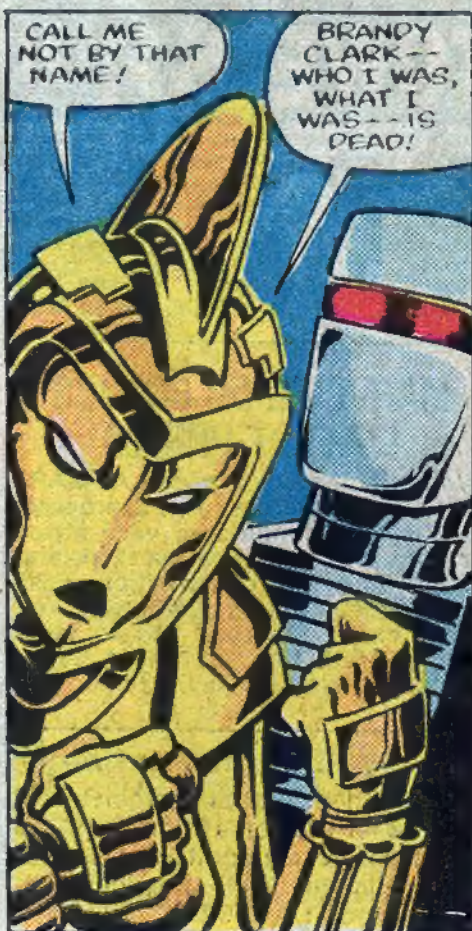
CALL ME NOT BY THAT NAME!

BRANDY CLARK-- WHO I WAS, WHAT I WAS-- IS DEAD!

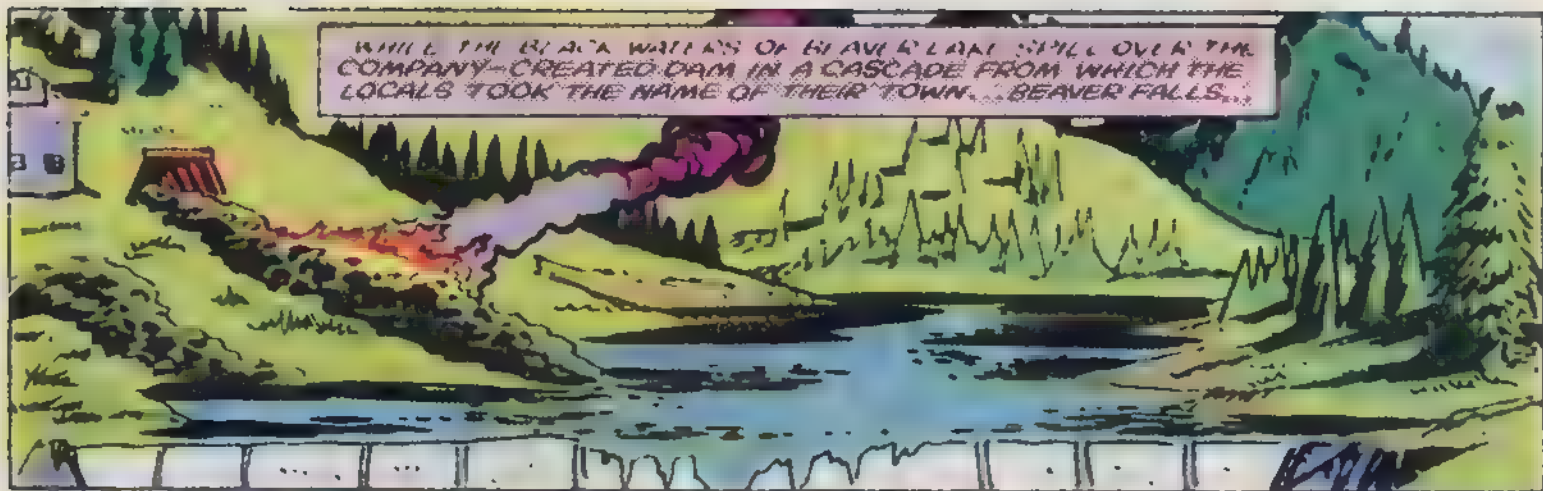
FOR A MOMENT MEMORY OF OUR FORMER HAPPINESS BLINDED ME TO MY MISSION, BUT MY BLOOD-LUST WILL NOT BE ABATED!

NOT UNTIL EITHER THE DIRE WRAITHS... OR I... LIE DESTROYED IN THE DUST!

AGAIN ROM'S LOVE GIVES WAY TO A SENSE OF LOSS...

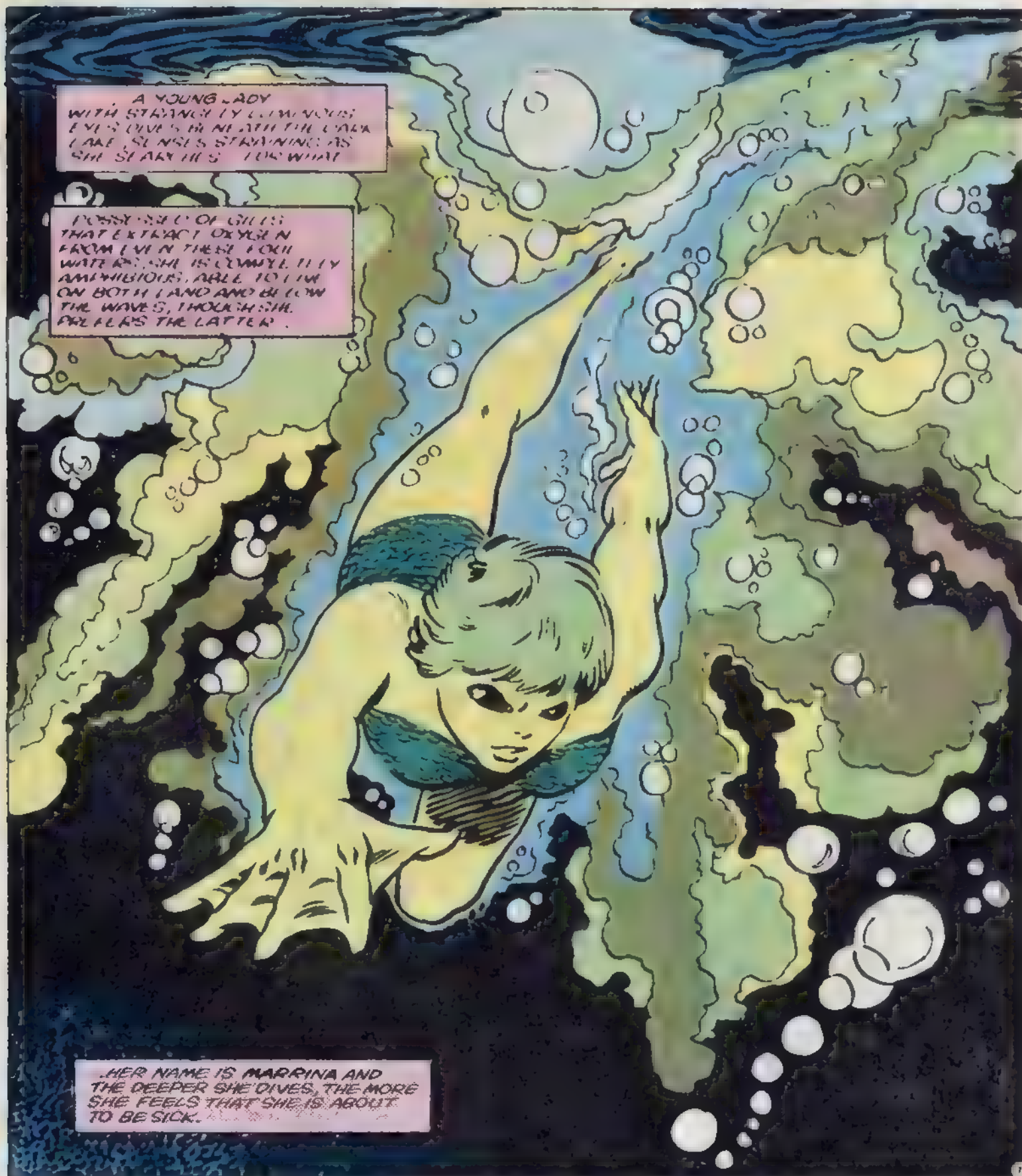


WHILE THE BLACK WATERS OF BEAVER LAKE SPILL OVER THE COMPANY-CREATED DAM IN A CASCADE FROM WHICH THE LOCALS TOOK THE NAME OF THEIR TOWN... BEAVER FALLS...



A YOUNG LADY
WITH STRANGELY LUMINOUS
EYES DIVES DEEPLY INTO THE LAKE
LAKE SENSES STRAINING AS
SHE SEARCHES FOR WHAT

POSSESSED OF GILLS
THAT EXTRACT OXYGEN
FROM EVEN THE FOUL
WATERS, SHE IS CUNNINGLY
AMBITIOUS, ABLE TO SWIM
ON BOTH LAND AND BELOW
THE WAVES, THOUGH SHE
PREFERS THE LATTER.



HER NAME IS MARRINA AND
THE DEEPER SHE DIVES, THE MORE
SHE FEELS THAT SHE IS ABOUT
TO BE SICK.

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DOWN
SHE DIVES,
DEEPER,
DEEPER.

TO HER EYES, THE LAKE WATERS
SEEM THICK WITH SUSPENDED
SOLIDS, BLACK PARTICLES FILTERING
ALL LIGHT SO THAT THE DEPTHS
ARE DARKER THAN THE DARKEST
NIGHT.



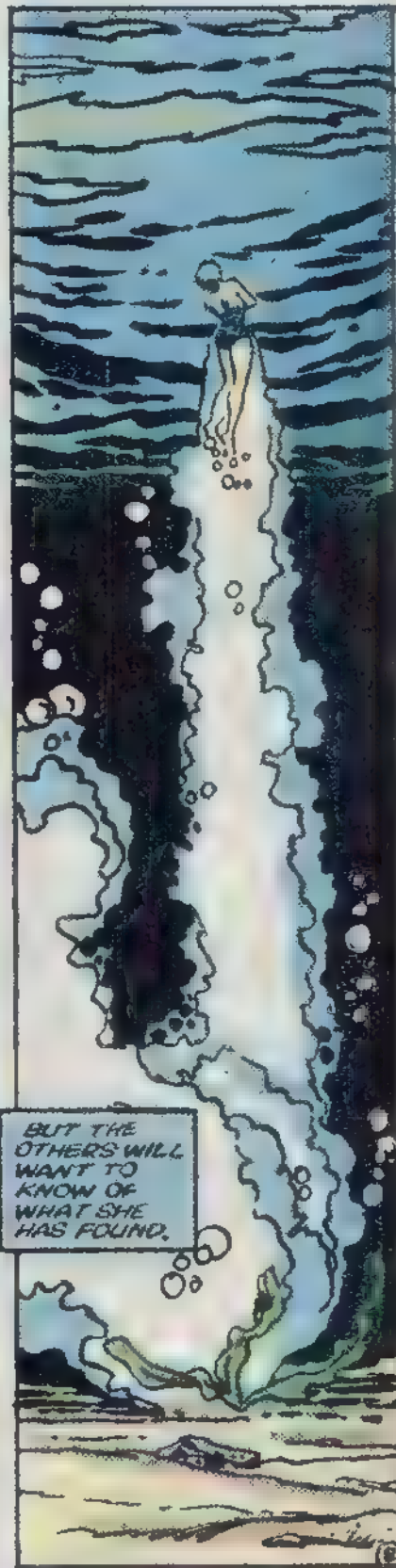
COULD
LIFE
THRIVE
IN SUCH
WATERS?



SHE WONDERES,
SHE DOUBTS...

... AND THEN
SHE SPIES
SOMETHING
WHICH
DISPELS HER
DOUBTS --

-- WHILE ONLY SERVING TO
HEIGHTEN HER FEARS.



BUT THE
OTHERS WILL
WANT TO
KNOW OF
WHAT SHE
HAS FOUND.

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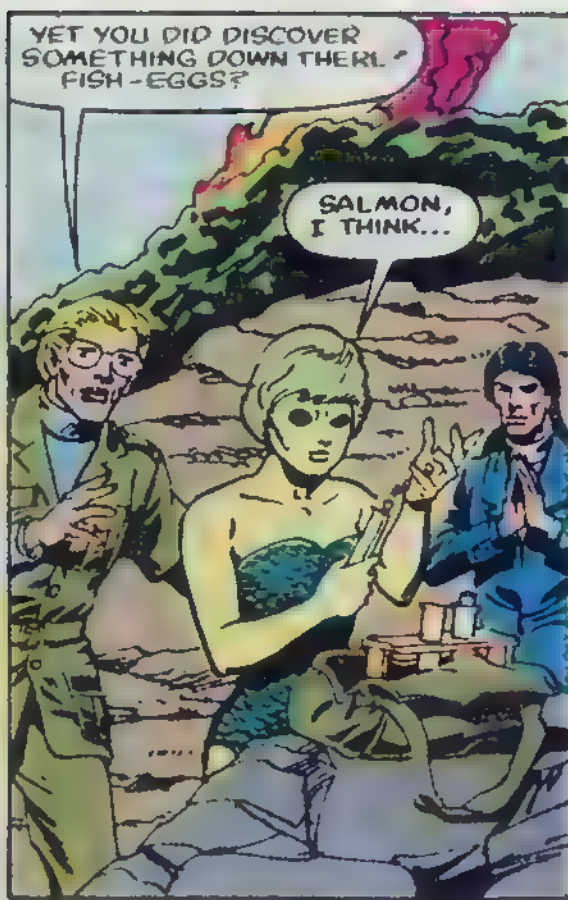
THE "OTHERS"... DR. MICHAEL, TWO YOUNG MEN, AND DR. WALTER LANGKOWSKI.

WALTER, MICHAEL! I HAVE FOUND SOMETHING!

TAKE IT FROM ME, FOR I FEAR I AM ABOUT TO BE ILL!

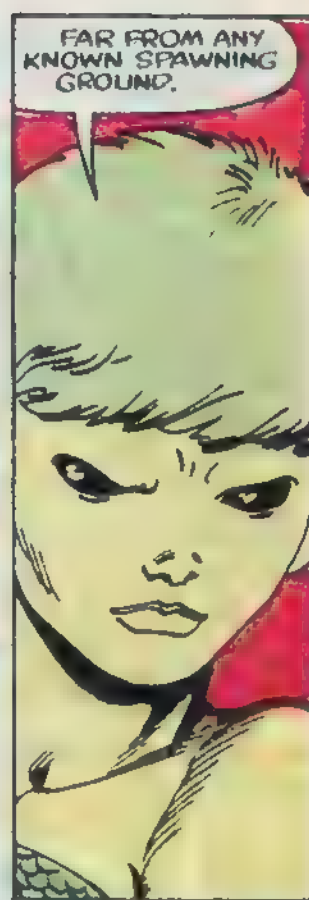
WAS IT THAT BAD BENEATH THE BLACK WATER'S MARRINA?

HOW COULD IT BE ANYTHING BUT "BAD", MICHAEL? MARRINA MUST HAVE FELT AS THOUGH SHE WAS SWIMMING THROUGH TAR!



YET YOU DID DISCOVER SOMETHING DOWN THERE. FISH-EGGS?

SALMON, I THINK...



FAR FROM ANY KNOWN SPAWNING GROUND.

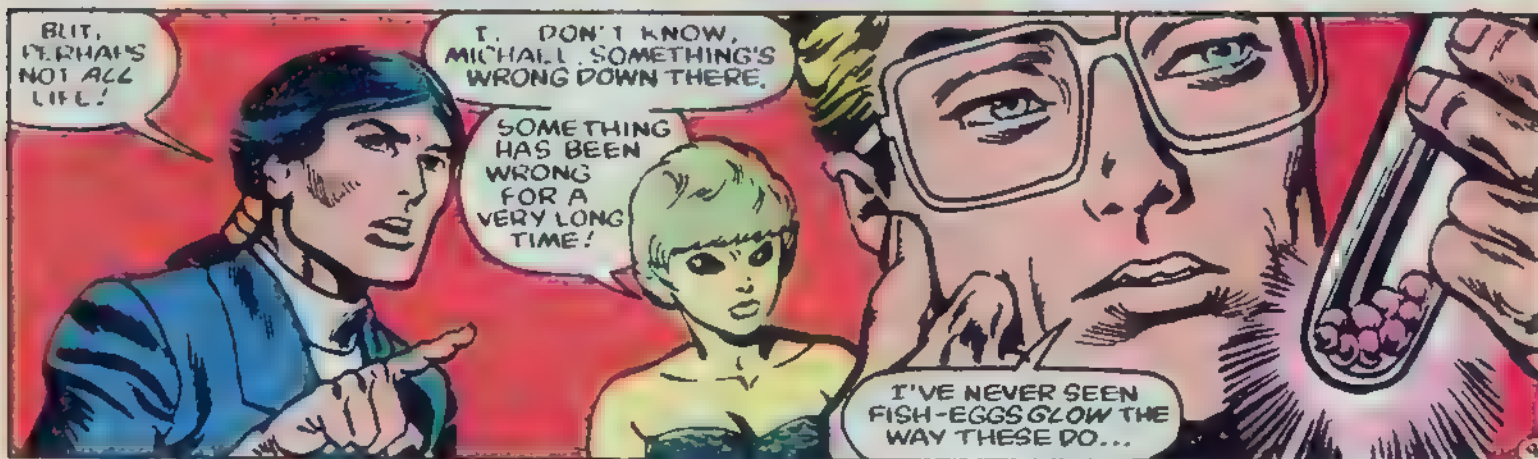


IT'S AMAZING THAT THEY-- THAT ANY LIFE-- COULD SURVIVE IN THESE POLLUTED WATERS.



YES, THE COAL SLURRY-- THE CAST-OFF REFUSE FROM THE PROCESS OF WASHING COAL MINED FROM THESE HILLS DECADES AGO--

-- HAS BEEN SEEPING INTO THE WATERS OF BEAVER LAKE EVER SINCE THE MINES SHUT DOWN, POLLUTING THEM, CHOKING OFF ALL LIFE.

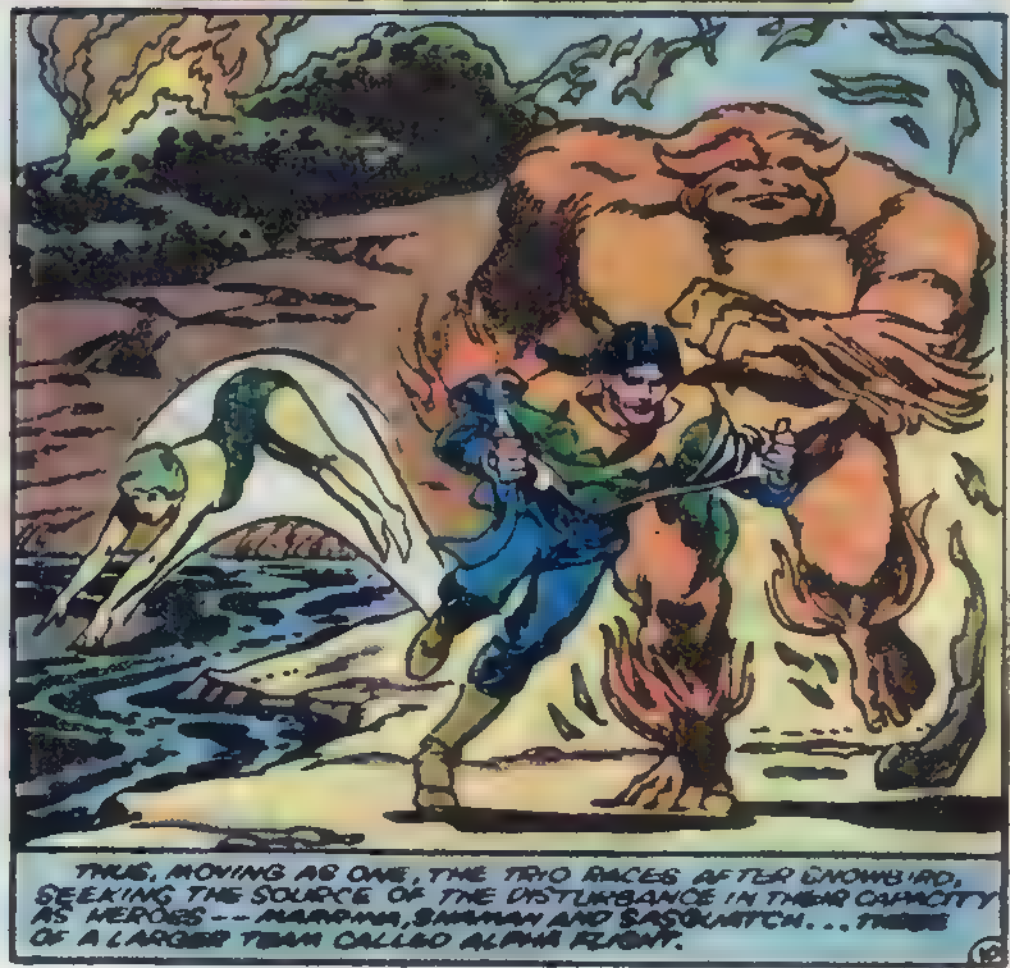
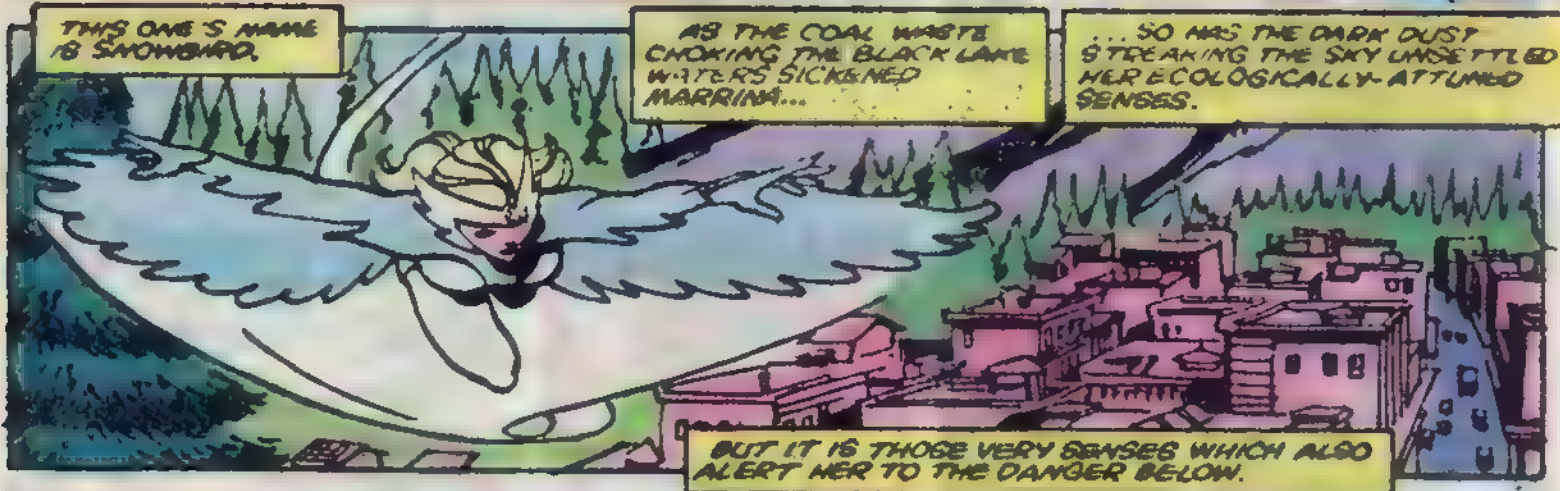
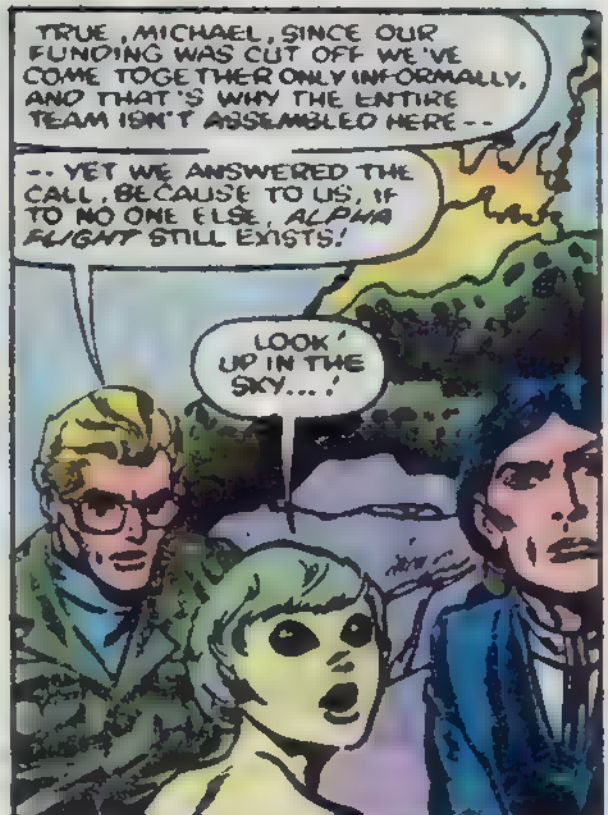
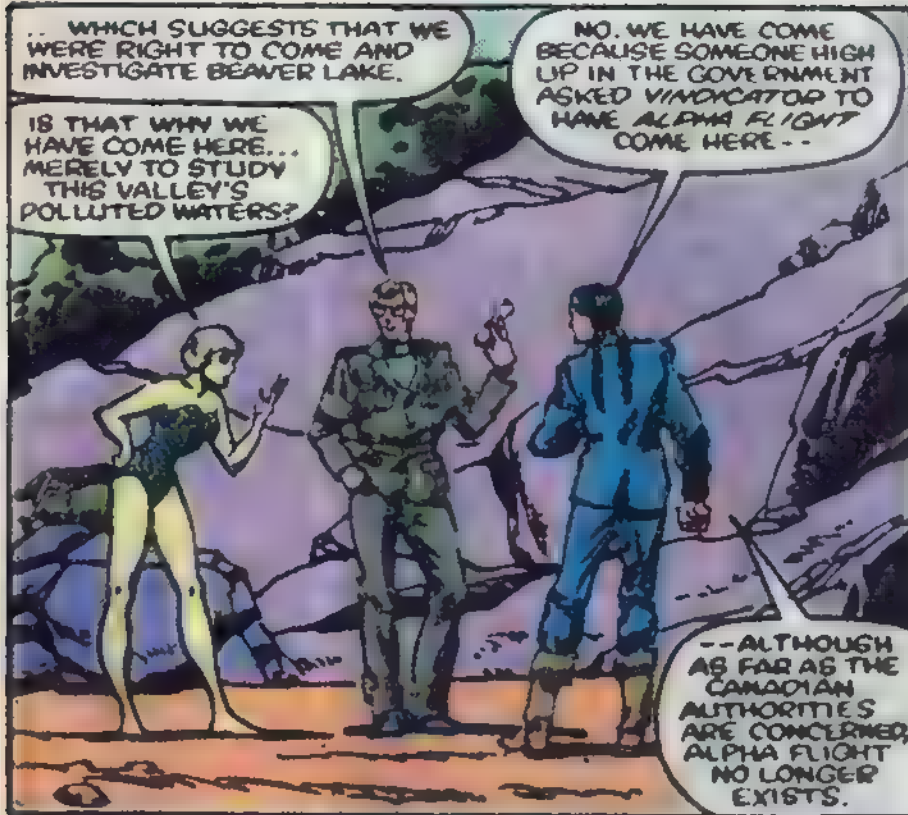


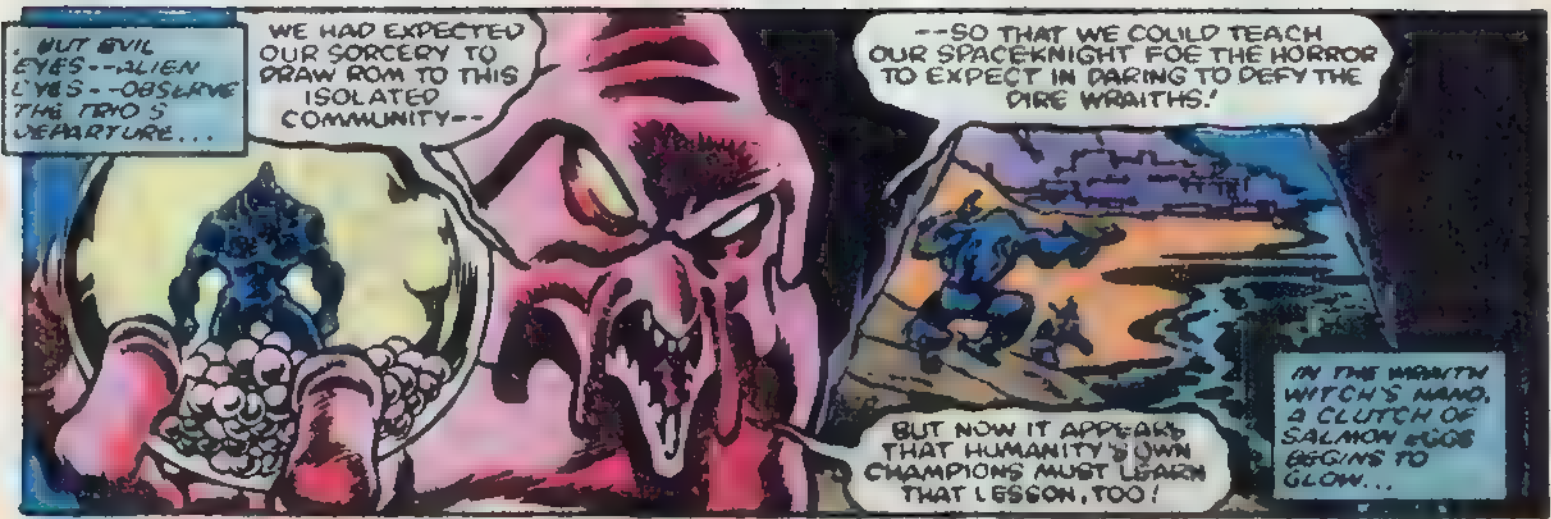
BLIT, PERHAPS NOT ALL LIFE!

I, DON'T KNOW, MICHAEL. SOMETHING'S WRONG DOWN THERE.

SOMETHING HAS BEEN WRONG FOR A VERY LONG TIME!

I'VE NEVER SEEN FISH-EGGS GLOW THE WAY THESE DO...





BUT EVIL EYES--ALIEN EYES--OBSERVE THE TRIO'S DEPARTURE...

WE HAD EXPECTED OUR SORCERY TO DRAW THEM TO THIS ISOLATED COMMUNITY--

--SO THAT WE COULD TEACH OUR SPACEKNIGHT FOE THE HORROR TO EXPECT IN DARING TO DEFEY THE DIRE WRAITHS!

BUT NOW IT APPEARS THAT HUMANITY'S OWN CHAMPIONS MUST LEARN THAT LESSON, TOO!

IN THE WRAITH WITCH'S HAND, A CLUTCH OF SALMON EGGS BEGINS TO GLOW...

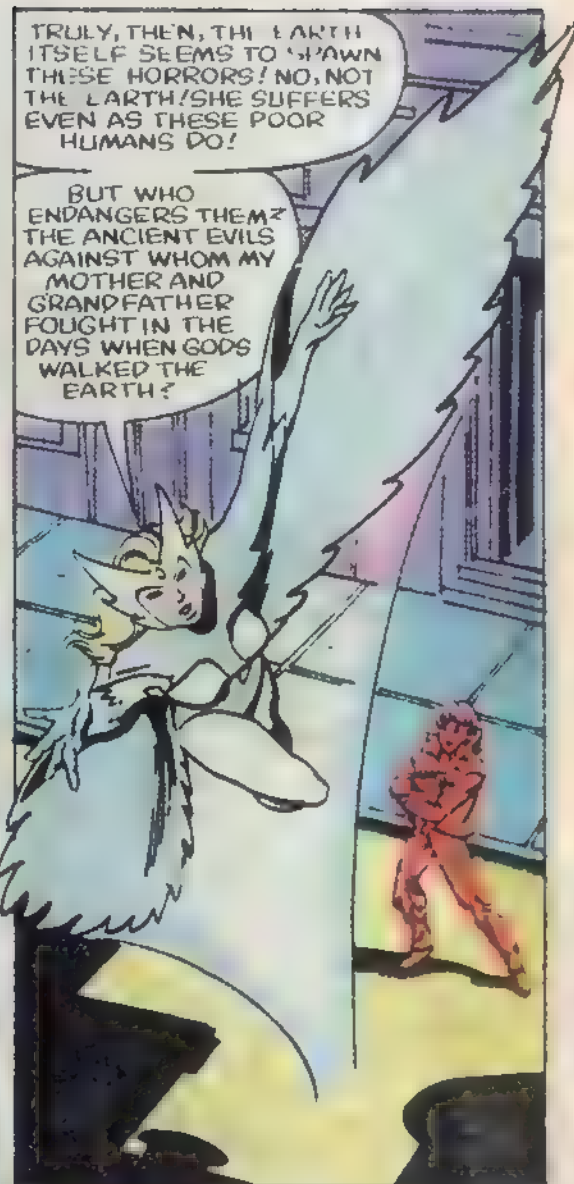


...AND HATCH HORRORS SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH ALREADY MAKE THE TINY TOWN OF BEAVER FALLS!

BOTH SASQUATCH AND I SENSED AN ASSAULT UPON THE MYSTIC FIELDS THAT SAFEGUARD THE SANCTITY OF MOTHER EARTH. THUS, WE WOULD HAVE COME TO INVESTIGATE EVEN IF THE GOVERNMENT HADN'T REQUESTED US TO.

BUT NEITHER OF US WERE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

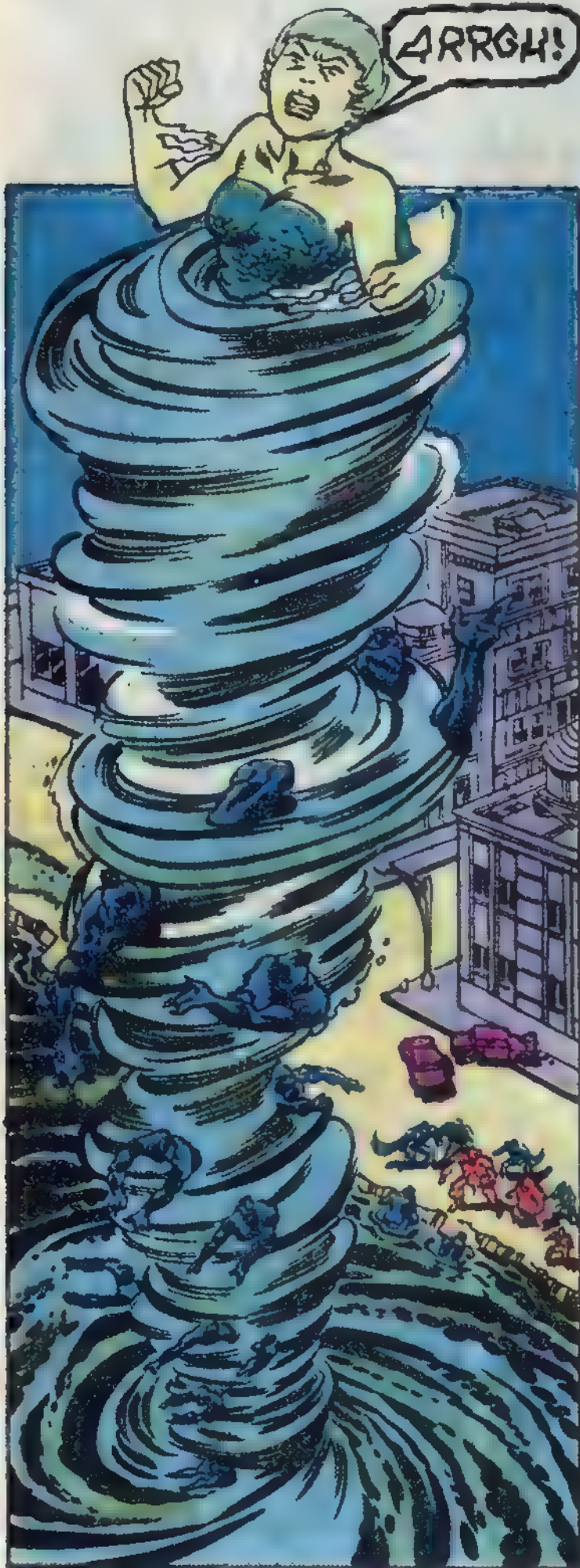




EVEN HER COMPANIONS FEAR SNOWBIRD'S TRANSFORMATIONS, FOR IN BECOMING LIKE UNTO THE BEASTS OF THE ARCTIC SHE GAINS THEIR POWER... BUT SUBLIMATES HER OWN HUMANITY TO THE BEASTS' SAVAGERY, AS WELL!

HOWEVER, THAT STILL MAKES SNOWBIRD MORE HUMAN AT THIS MOMENT THAN MARRINA SEEMS TO BE!

ARRGH!

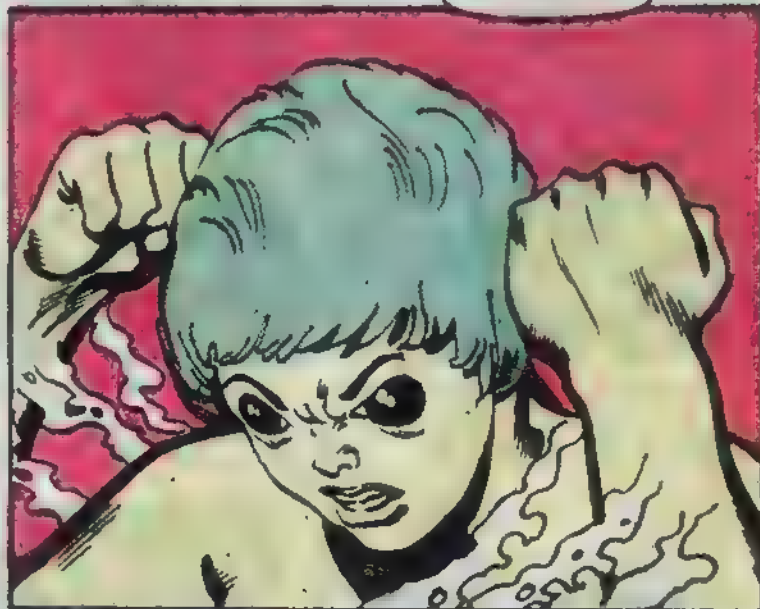


THE KID'S SWEEPING THE AMPHIBIANS UP IN A WHIRLING BLACK WATERSPOUT! BUT WHY IS SHE SCREAMING?!

LOOK AT THE REVULSION MIRRORED IN HER FACE, SASQUATCH! MARRINA SAID THE POLLUTED WATERS SICKENED HER! SHE HAS SWUM THROUGH THEM SO LONG NOW THAT THEY ALSO APPEAR TO HAVE DRIVEN HER...



...INSANE!



OH, COME ON, SHAMAN! I MEAN, POLLUTION RAISES MY ENVIRONMENTALIST'S HACKLES, TOO, BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN KNOWN TO GIVE BIRTH TO HORRORS LIKE THESE!



YOU FORGET WHAT I SAID EARLIER, SASQUATCH!

THERE IS MAGIC AT WORK HERE! MYSTICAL FORCES PLAY UPON THE POLLUTION MAN CAUSED...

... AND THEREBY MEAN
TO BRING ABOUT THE
TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF
ALL MANKIND!

THE VOICE
THAT CUTS
THROUGH
THE CARNAGE
TO ATTRACT
ALPHA.
FLIGHT'S
ATTENTION
IS COLD,
ALMOST
MECHANICAL.



IT IS THE VOICE
OF THAT SHINING
SILVER CYBORG...

ROM
SPACEKNIGHT

DIE, FOUL WRAITHSPAWN!
LET THE LIGHT EYES OF THE
SPACEKNIGHT CALLED STARSHINE
FRY YOUR FLESH AND BAKE
YOUR BONES!

CAN YOU
NOT CURB YOUR
BLOODLUST,
STARSHINE -- AND
DISABLE INSTEAD
OF DESTROY -- AT
LEAST UNTIL WE
DISCOVER WHAT
THESE CREATURES
ARE?



I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, SHINY, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S GOT THE RIGHT IDEA! THESE UGLIES HAVE MAIMED A DOZEN PEOPLE SINCE RISING FROM THE DEPTHS!

WOULD YOU ASK SUCH QUESTIONS OF YOUR EXECUTIONER, ROM, RATHER THAN TRY TO WREST HIS BLADE FROM HIS HAND?

BUT WHY DO THEY KILL? WHAT MOTIVATES THEM? WHO MADE THEM SO?

MEANWHILE, MARKINA RISES FROM THE FLUID WATERS.

HER MOMENTARY MAELNESS ABATED, SHE STARES INTENTLY AT THE NEWCOMERS...

...AND RECOGNIZES IN STARSHINI'S RUTHLESSNESS A SIMILARITY TO HER OWN SPELLS OF SAVAGERY.

HOW MUCH, SHE WOULD RATHER BE LIKE THE OTHER... THE ONE CALLED ROM!

THAT THESE CREATURES EXIST BECAUSE OF DIRE WRAITH MAGIC THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT. BUT THE WRAITHS CANNOT CREATE SUCH OBSCENITIES OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH.

IN THEIR INFINITE EVIL, THE DIABOLICAL DIRE WRAITHS DID TAKE A CREATURE-- ALREADY SUFFERING CELLULAR ABNORMALITIES BECAUSE OF THE POLLUTANTS MANKIND HAD INTRODUCED INTO ITS AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT...

NO, THEY NEED ALREADY-EXISTING ANIMAL LIFE TO WORK THEIR VILLAINY UPON...

...AND, BY SORCEROUSLY STRENGTHENING THOSE ABNORMALITIES BREED HORRORS OUT OF SIMPLE FISH.

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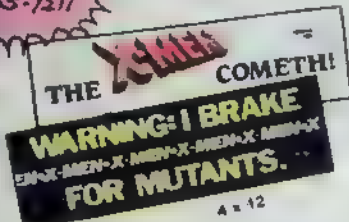
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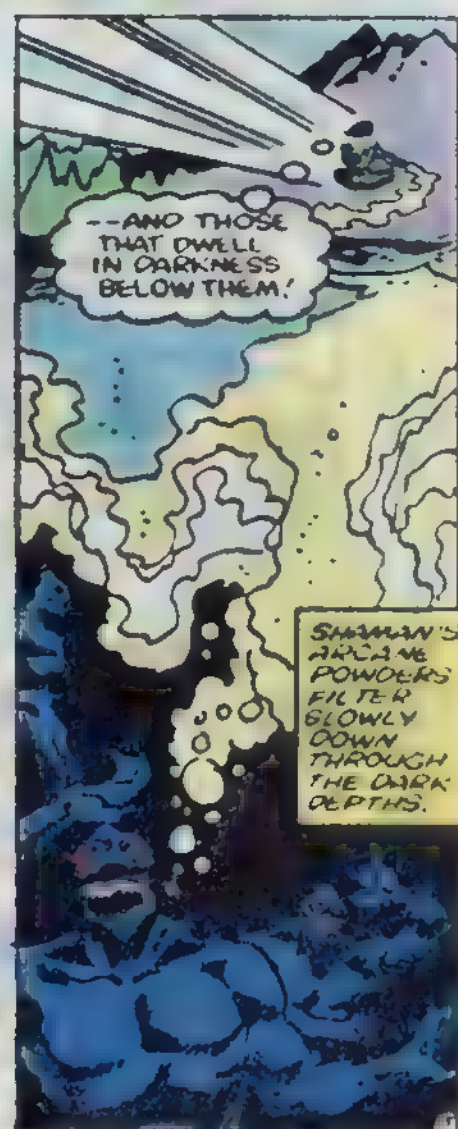
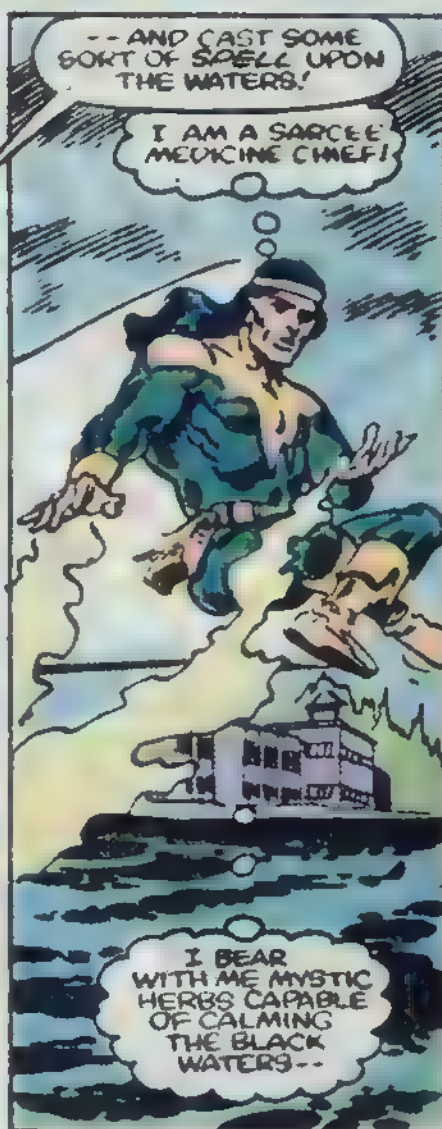
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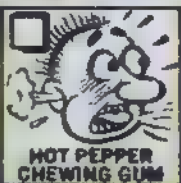
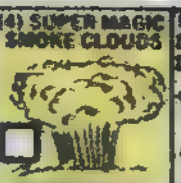
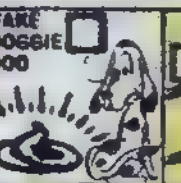
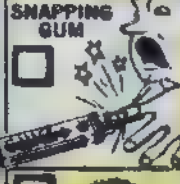
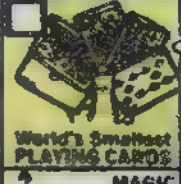
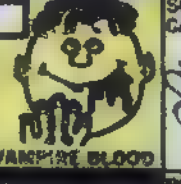
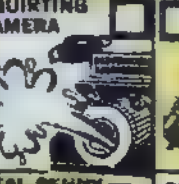
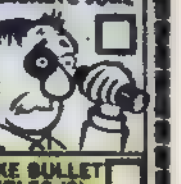
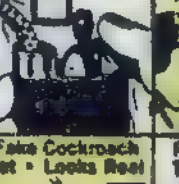
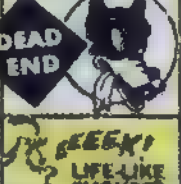
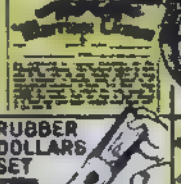
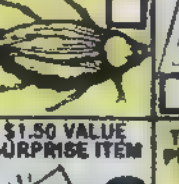
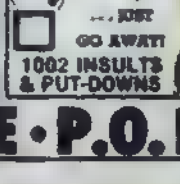
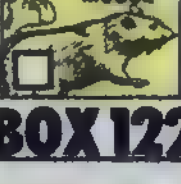
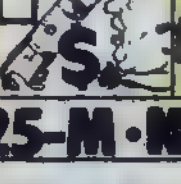
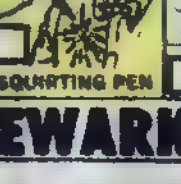
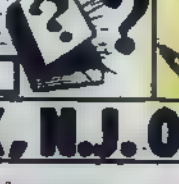
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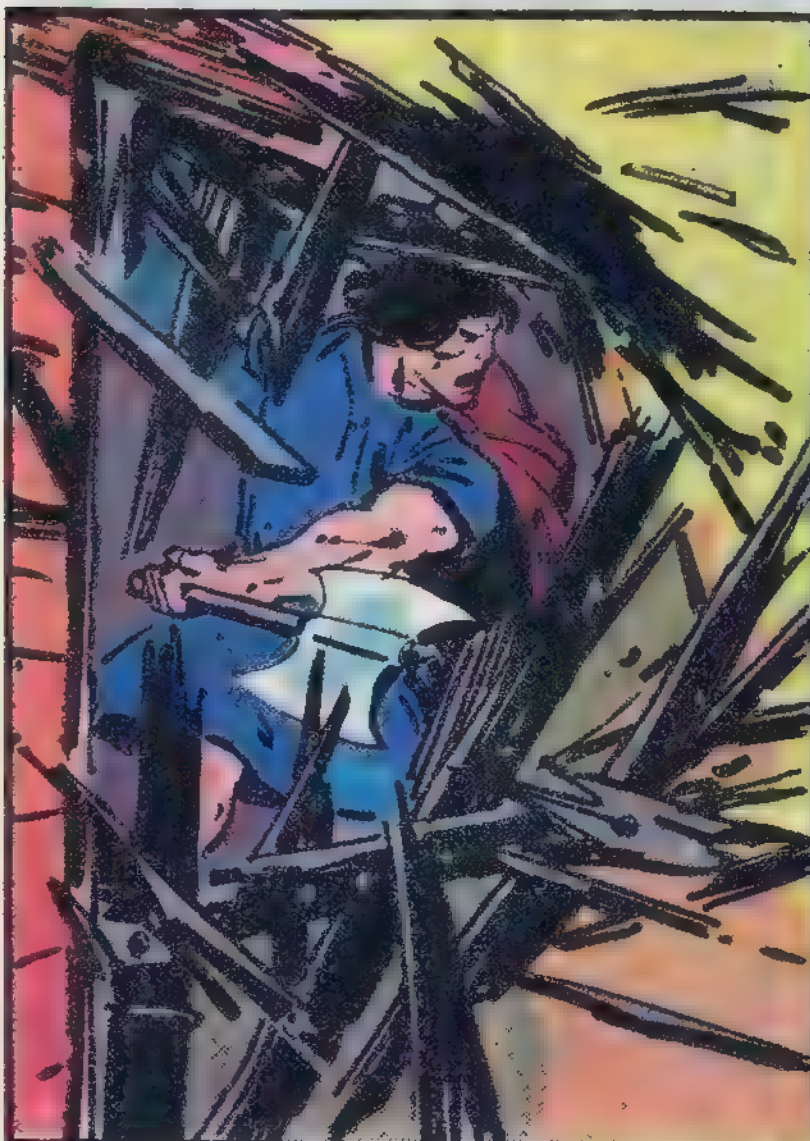
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KULL

THE CONQUEROR

IS BACK!
AND HE'S
BI-MONTHLY
BEGINNING
WITH ISSUE #5
ON SALE IN APRIL

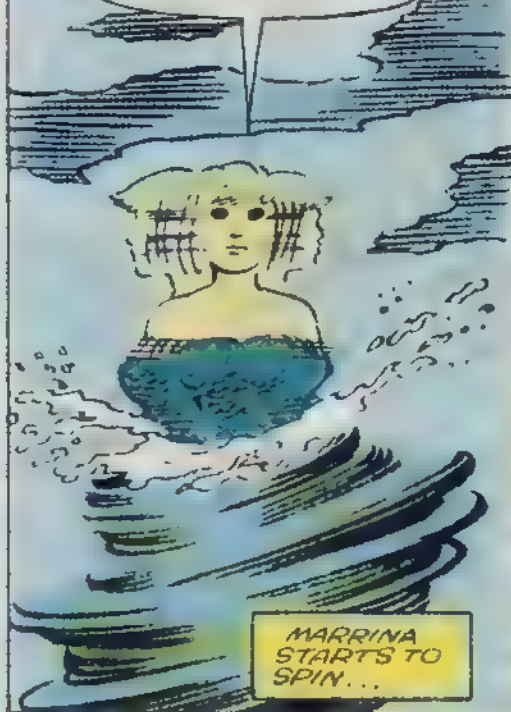
new
from
MARVEL

TOO SLOWLY FOR MARRINA WHO IS THE FIRST TO FEEL HERSELF CALMED BY SHAMAN'S SOOTHING SPELL.



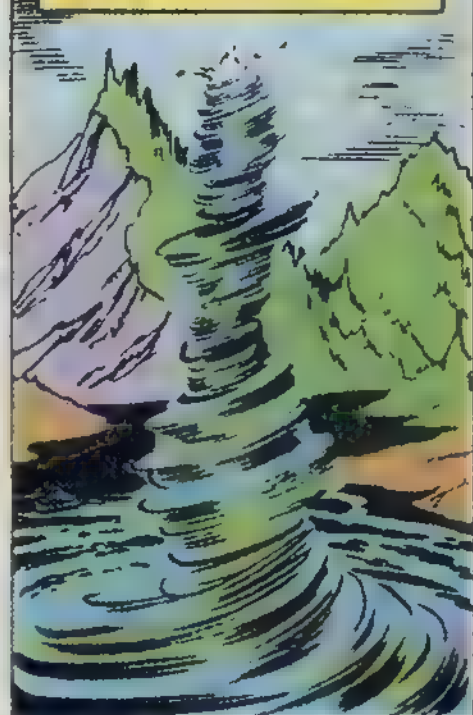
WITH EVERY PASSING SECOND MORE NIGHTMARE MONSTERS ARE SHOWN UP BENEATH THE WAVES!

SHAMAN'S MAGIC MUST BE MADE TO MIX MORE QUICKLY WITH THE LAKE WATERS!

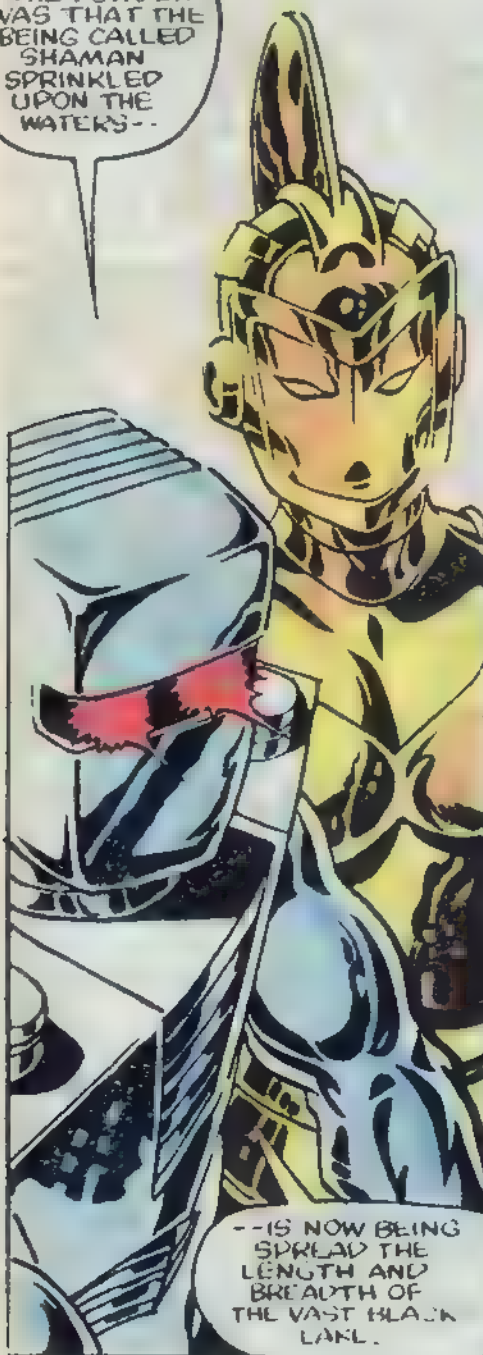


MARRINA STARTS TO SPIN...

...AND HER SPINNING CHURNS THE BLACK LAKE INTO A MAELSTROM.



WHATEVER THE POWDER WAS THAT THE BEING CALLED SHAMAN SPRINKLED UPON THE WATERS--

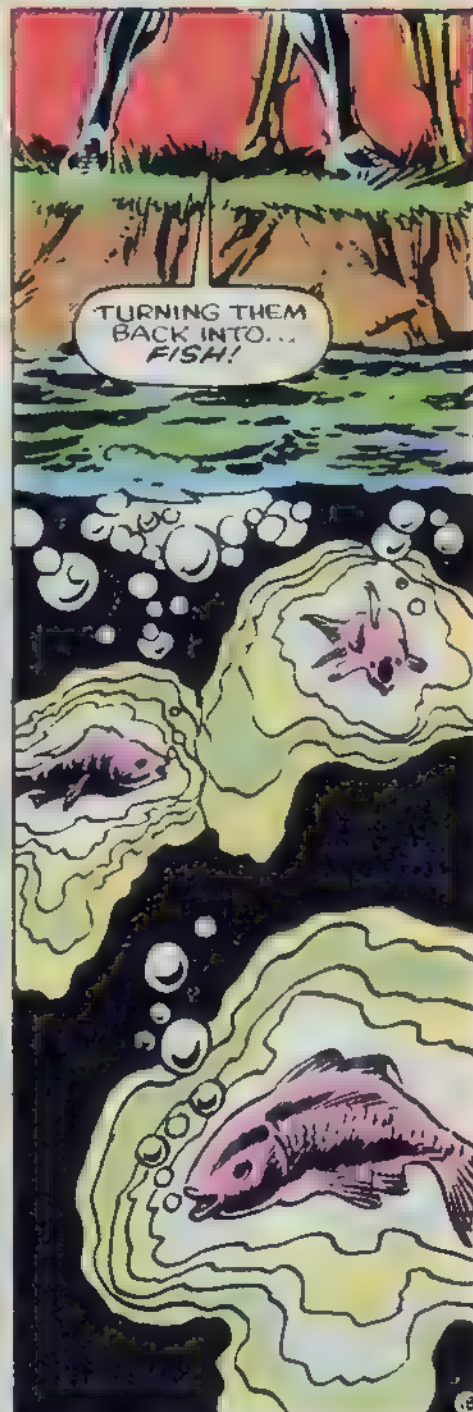


--IS NOW BEING SPREAD THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE VAST BLACK LAKE.

AND, LOOK! IT'S STARTING TO AFFECT THE AMPHIBIANS!



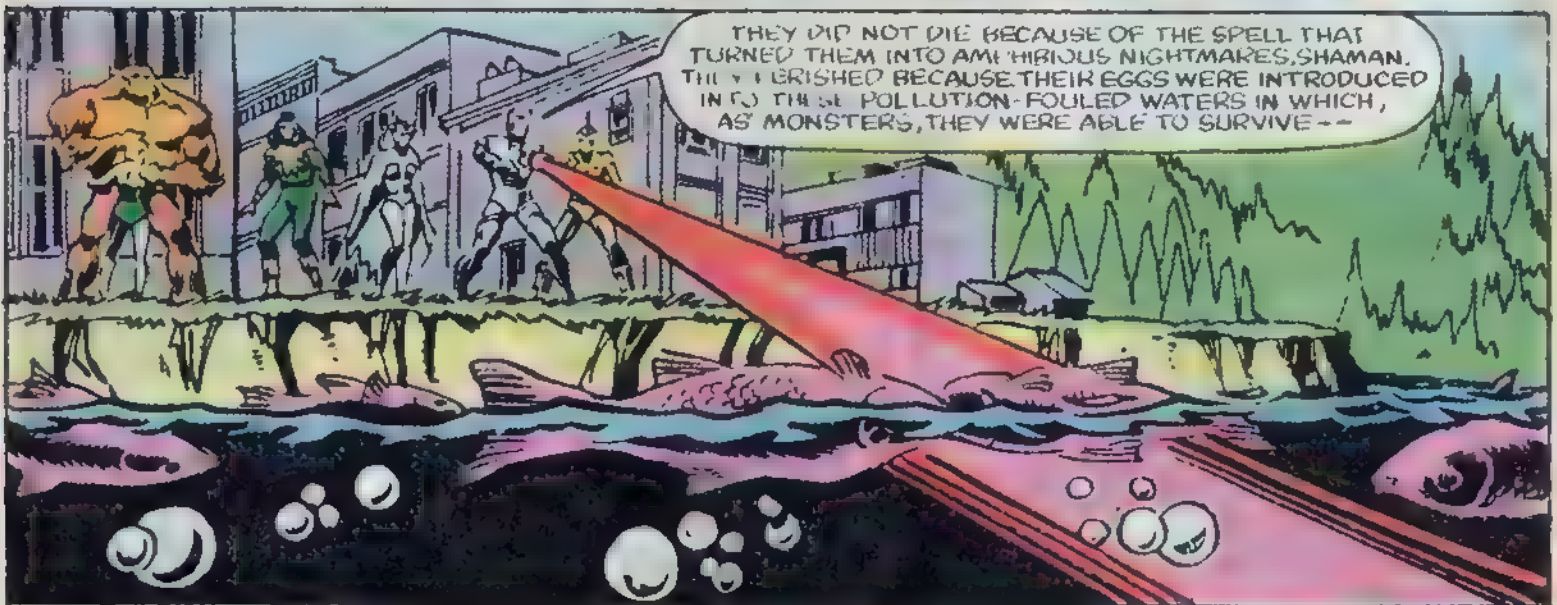
TURNING THEM BACK INTO... FISH!



SHAMAN'S SPELL ACCOMPLISHES THAT MUCH THE FISH ARE MADE FISH ONCE AGAIN BUT FURTHER HORROR AWAITS.

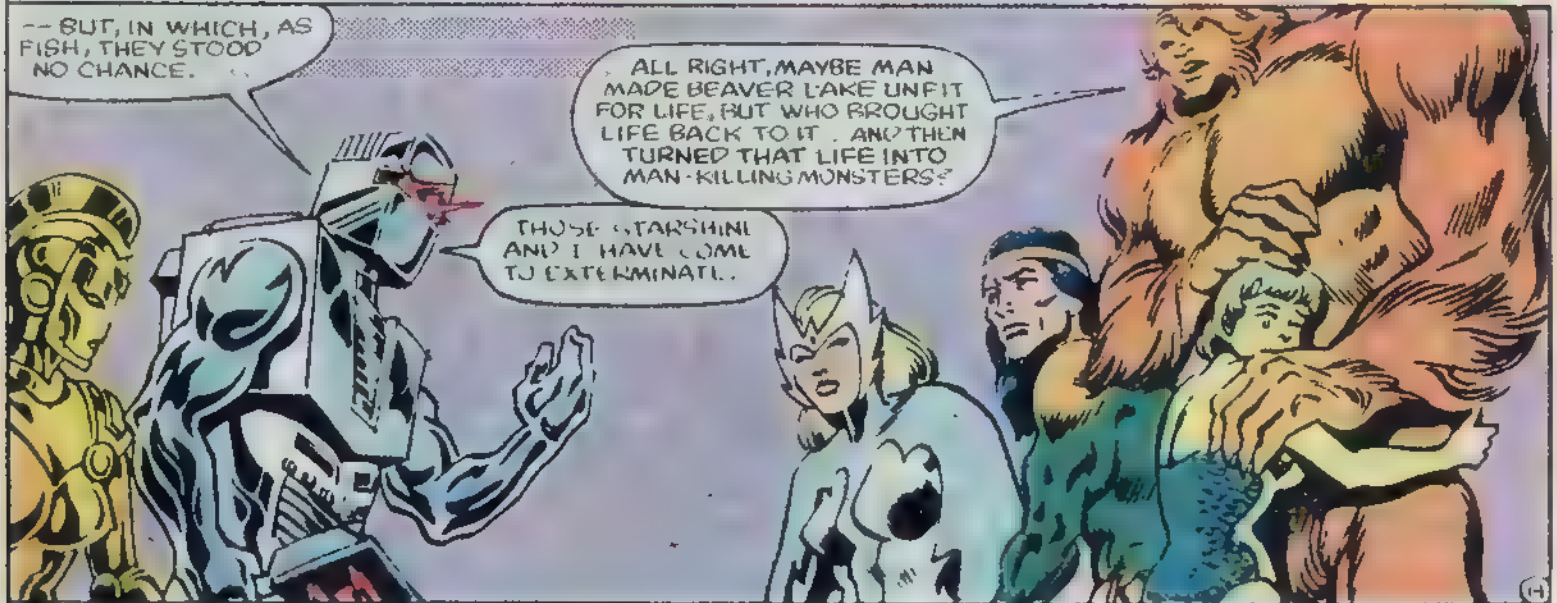


THIS SHOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED! I COUNTERACTED THE SPELL THAT MADE THEM MONSTERS.!



THEY DID NOT DIE BECAUSE OF THE SPELL THAT TURNED THEM INTO AMBITIOUS NIGHTMARES, SHAMAN. THEY PERISHED BECAUSE THEIR EGGS WERE INTRODUCED INTO THESE POLLUTION-FOULED WATERS IN WHICH, AS MONSTERS, THEY WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE--

-- BUT, IN WHICH, AS FISH, THEY STOOD NO CHANCE.



ALL RIGHT, MAYBE MAN MADE BEAVER LAKE UNFIT FOR LIFE, BUT WHO BROUGHT LIFE BACK TO IT. AND THEN TURNED THAT LIFE INTO MAN-KILLING MONSTERS?

THOSE STARSHINI AND I HAVE COME TO EXTERMINATE...



LISTEN, POWER MAN'S
NOT HERE RIGHT NOW, SO
WE HAVE A FEW SECONDS
TO TALK.

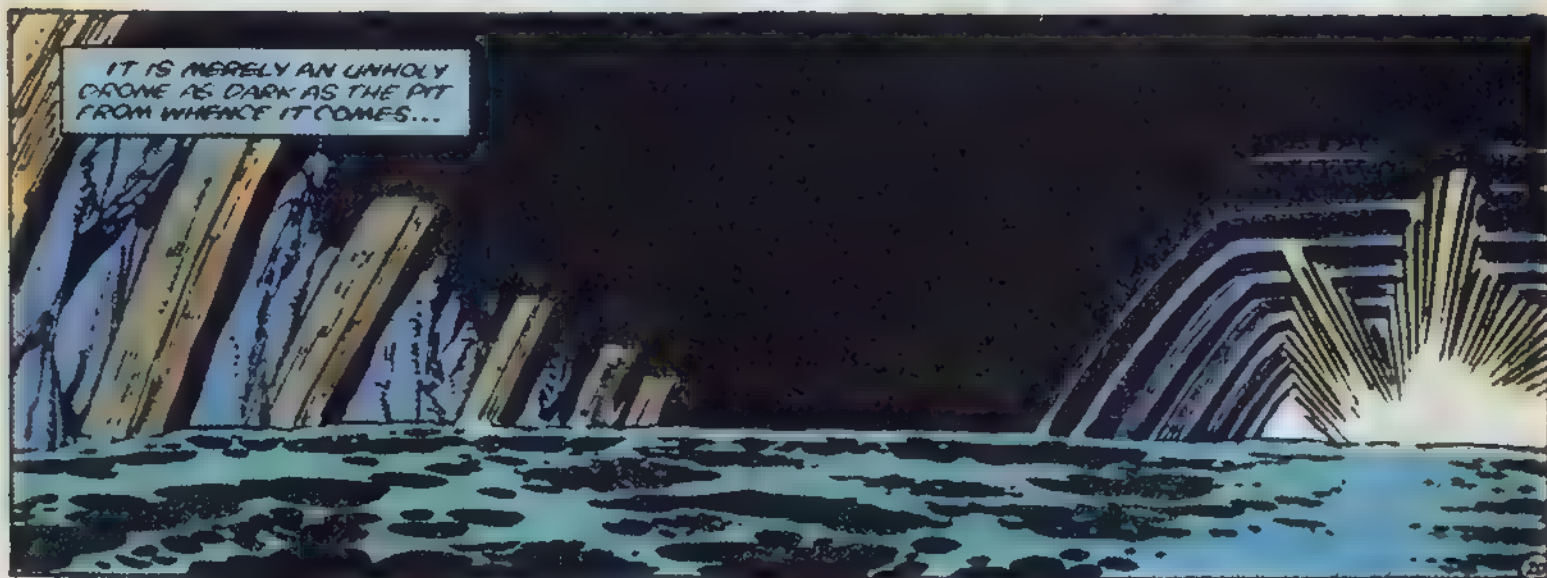
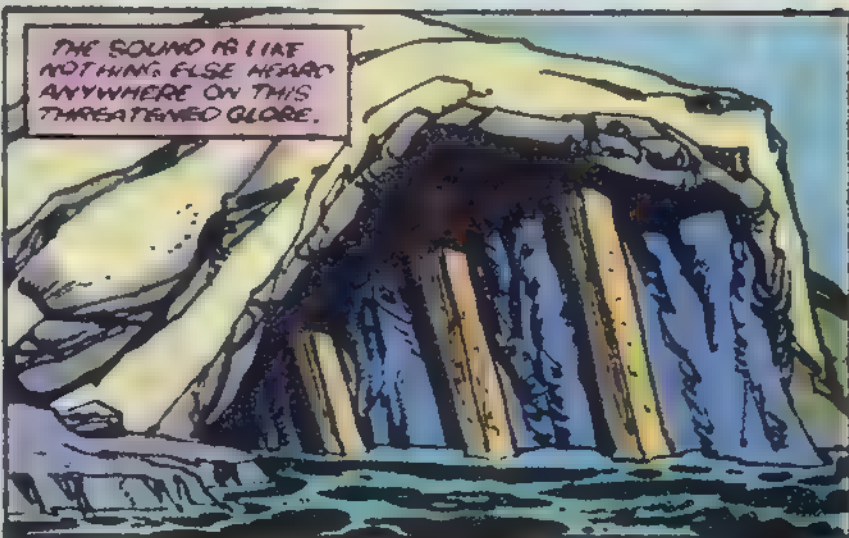
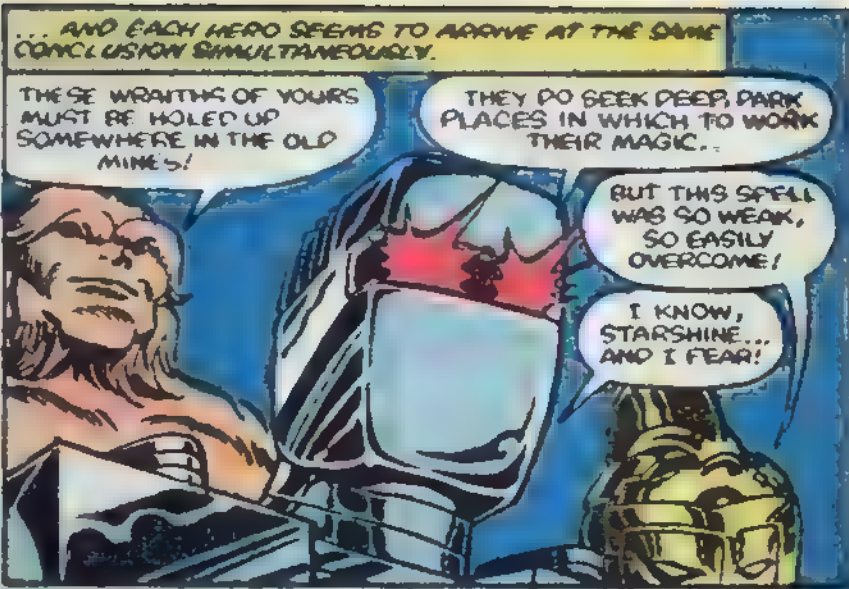
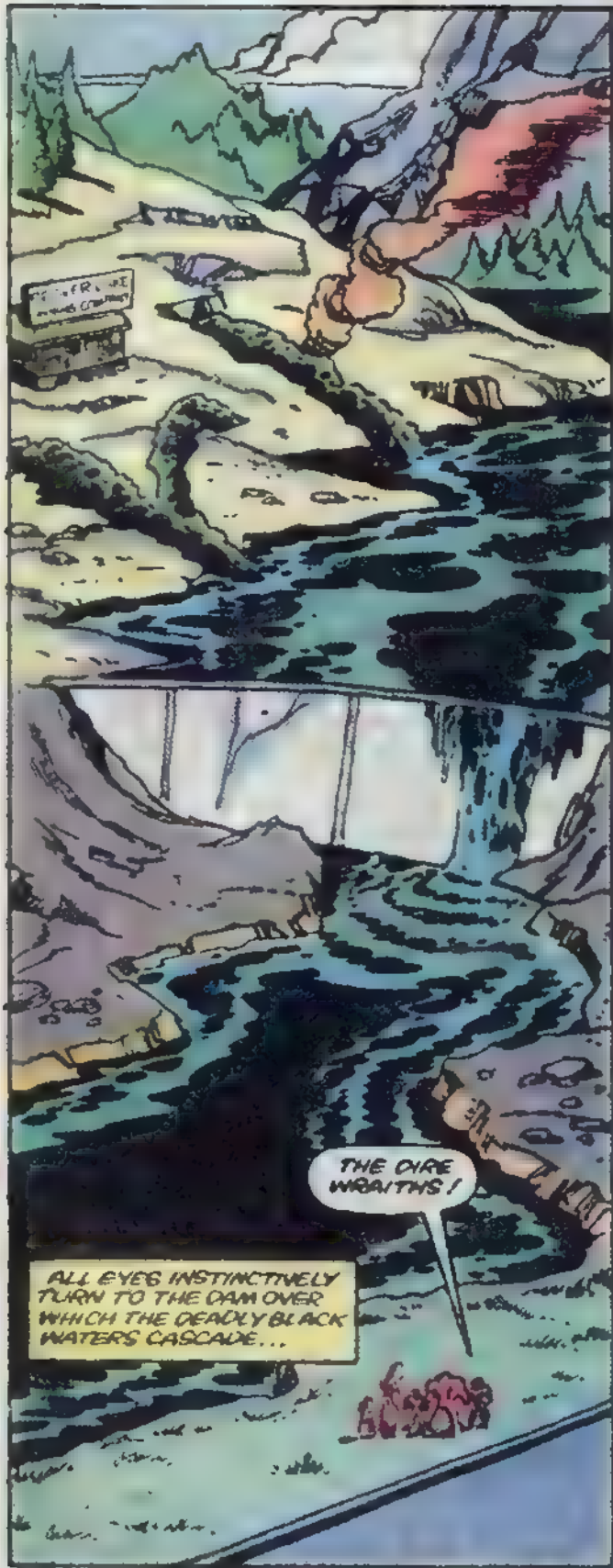
THE PROBLEM IS, HE
FOUND OUT THAT SOME
OF YOU AREN'T BUYING
OUR MAGAZINE* AND
THAT'S MAKING HIM...
WELL, MAD.

WHEN HE
GETS MAD,
HE BREAKS
THINGS.

AND
PEOPLE.

***POWER MAN
AND
IRON FIST**

ON SALE MONTHLY. 60¢.
CHEAPER THAN A DOCTOR
BILL.



Bullpen Bulletins

PRICE INCREASE?

Nah. Not yet, anyway I can't guarantee that our prices for comics won't ever go up, but, barring catastrophe, they won't for a while — long while. These are the facts — you guys out there are giving us your support like never before (and I hope that means you think we're earning it!). Therefore, we can pay the bills, pay the artists, and bank a few nickels. Therefore, we don't have to up our prices. Therefore, we won't! We'll hold out as long as we can. Stick with us and we'll do our best to hold the line. We're in this together!

I GAVE A SPEECH...

...at a press conference at the giant Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, a few weeks ago. The press conference was to announce the new line of Marvel Comics computer games being launched by Adventure International, Inc. My speech went something like this.

Hi, there! I'm Jim Shooter, Editor in Chief of Marvel Comics. Unlike myself, my speech is very short. Marvel Comics is number one in adventure stories, and Adventure International, Incorporated is number one in computer adventure games. Together we're going to conquer the world. Thank you!

Scott Adams heads up Adventure International, and he is to computer games as Stan Lee is to comics. He is *the man*. Scott is also a Marvel Comics fan, as are a whole bunch of the people who work for him down at his Florida base of opera-

tions. They wanted their games to be right on — as closely woven into the Marvel Universe and continuity as possible. So, editor Bob Budiansky, creative genius John Byrne and I got together with Scott to plot out the entire game series and a matching set of comics — a Limited Series — which links it to the mainstream of Marvel.

HYPE BOX

MARVEL FANFARE #15 —

Okay, true believers, this is it! BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH returns to MARVEL with a full-length *Thing* tale that he's written and illustrated! Barry's a genuine living legend in the comic world, and if you remember his classic *Conan* tales you know why! If not here's your chance to see how he earned that reputation. Don't miss it — there's no telling when you'll get another!

ALPHA FLIGHT #12 —

Perhaps the most eagerly anticipated story of the year — and the most fearfully dreaded! This issue, a member of Alpha Flight will *die*! Written and drawn by JOHN BYRNE.

What we (mostly John) came up with, I think, is great!

The game series is called the *Questprobe Series*. The first game featuring the Hulk and Doctor Strange will be on sale about May 1st at places which sell computer software and at your local comics shop. Every three months or so thereafter, another *Questprobe* game!

featuring a Marvel star will be released.

The first issue of our *Questprobe Limited Series* of comics, also featuring the Hulk and Doctor Strange (of course) will be on sale April 24th. And, of course, every three months or so thereafter, whenever a new game debuts, the corresponding *Questprobe Limited Series* comic book will also be released.

You can play and enjoy each game without ever reading the comics (and without having played any of the other games in the series). And, you can read and enjoy the comics (which we'd do even if there were no games, frankly. They're that good!) without playing the games. Lucky for me, I've had this fear of computers ever since I was bitten by a pocket calculator as a child. But, of course, it's better if you partake of both the comics and the games — so, hey, enrich the experience, why don'tcha? Go for the gusto!

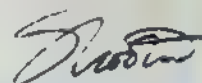
The game graphics, by the way, are designed by top Marvel artists.

All right, enough of this! Now you know what's going on. Make up your minds what you're doing and go do it! And be sure to let us know what you think...

TILL NEXT MONTH...

Hang in there! Stay well and come back, 'cause heavens knows, we need you!

Best



Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECK LIST

DAREDEVIL #208
NEW MUTANTS #17
MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #3
CONAN THE KING #23
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #254
CAPTAIN AMERICA #295
THOR #345
INDIANA JONES #19
CRYSTAR #8
THOR #345
INDIANA JONES #19
CRYSTAR #8
MOON KNIGHT #38
INCREDIBLE HULK #297
AVENGERS #245

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #160
MARVEL TALES #165 — Reprinting "Bring Back My Goblin to Me" by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO from *Amazing*
Spider-Man #27
X-MEN #183
ROM #56
POWER MAN IRON FIST #107
G.I. JOE #25
FANTASTIC FOUR #268
MARVEL TEAM-UP #143 — Featuring Spider-Man and Starfox
IRON MAN #184
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #92
DEFENDERS #133

STAR WARS #85
ALPHA FLIGHT #12
THE THING #13
MARVEL MAGAZINES
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #101
MARVEL AGE #16
MARVEL FANFARE #15
EPIC COMICS
EPIC ILLUSTRATED #24
COYOTE #6
ASSORTED GOODIES
X-MEN TRADE PAPERBACK — Reprinting the Phoenix saga from *X-Men* #'s 129-137, by CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN BYRNE, and TERRY AUSTIN.

AS DARK AND AS EVIL AS THE DEMONIC CREATURES FROM WHOSE THROATS IT LITTERS!

SISTERS, THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!

OUR MINOR SPELL KEPT ROM AND THE EARTH HEROES ENGAGED IN A DIVERSION...

...UNAWARE THAT OUR REAL AIM WAS NOT TO TRANSFORM FISH INTO FIENDS...



... BUT TO SORCEROUSLY ALTER THE VERY CHEMISTRY OF THE BLACK WATERS THEMSELVES!

IN WRAITH HANDS, THE BLACK LAKE WATERS SEEM TO BUBBLE, TO ROIL! THE POLLUTANTS INTRODUCED BY UNTHINKING MANKIND INTO THE ONCE FRESH WATERS HAVE ALREADY ALTERED ITS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE FOR THE WORSE.

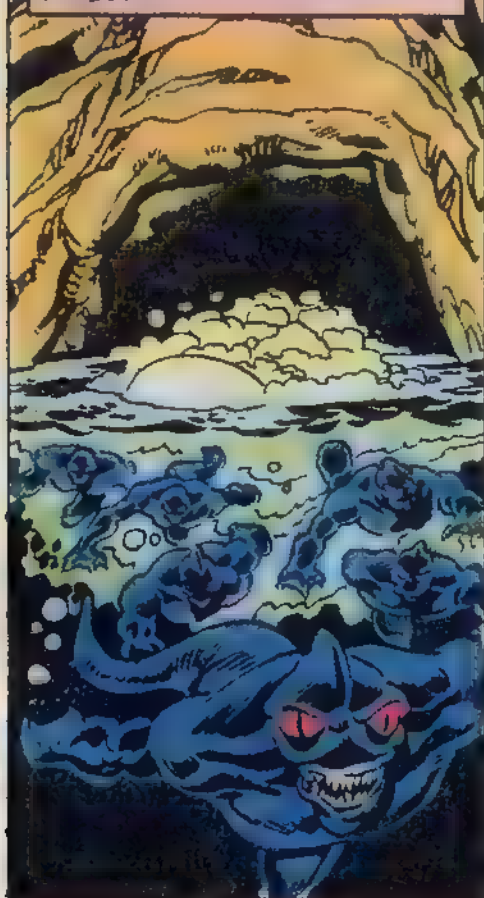
THUS THESE FOULED WATERS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO WRAITH MAGIC THAT ALTERS THEM EVEN MORE...

THAT MAKES THEM TOXIC, POISONOUS TO ALL EARTHLY LIFE THAT COMES IN CONTACT WITH THEM

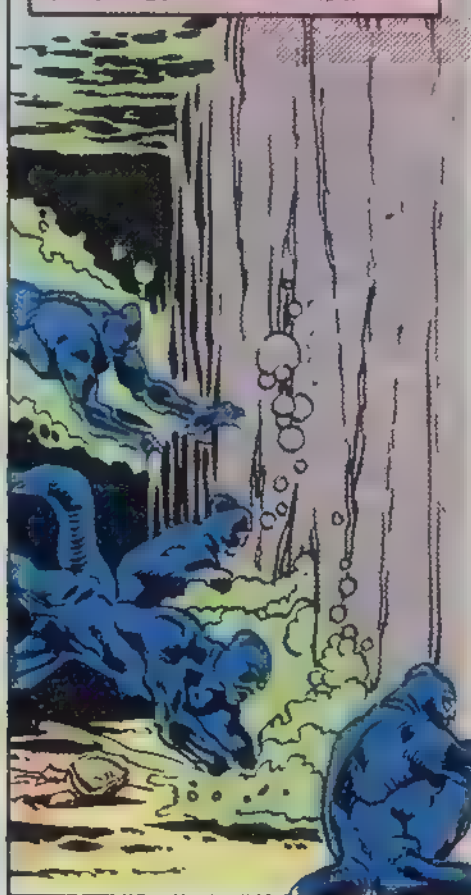


... BUT UNLIKE ANY TOXIN MANKIND HAS EVER ENCOUNTERED!

THEN THE WRAITHS RELEASE THEIR VIRULENT LIQUID INTO THE WATERS OF THE LAKE ITSELF



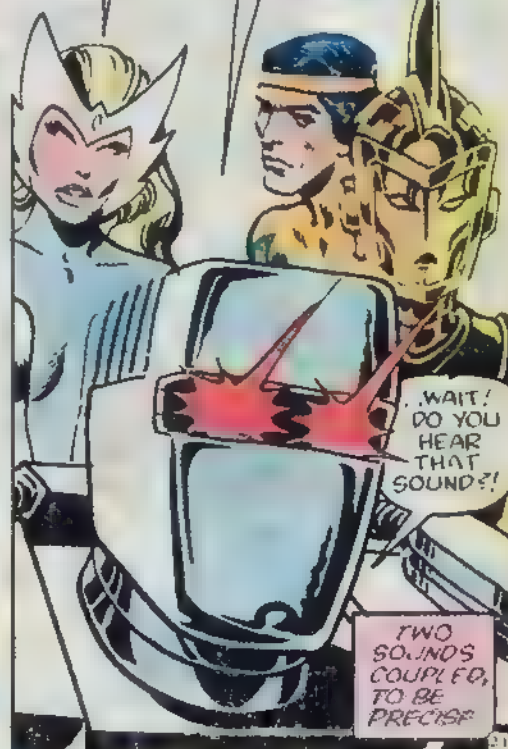
SWIFTLY IT SPREADS, ALTERING THE CHEMICAL BALANCE OF EVERY WATER MOLECULE IT TOUCHES.



MEANWHILE, BACK IN TOWN...

THEN WHAT IS THE THREAT THESE ALIENS -- THESE DIRE WRAITHS -- NOW POSE?

THAT THEY MEAN TO WORK SOME EVIL HERE INVOLVING THESE POLLUTED WATERS IS CERTAIN, YET HOW THEY CAN HOPE BUT TO HAVE MORE THAN A LOCAL EFFECT...



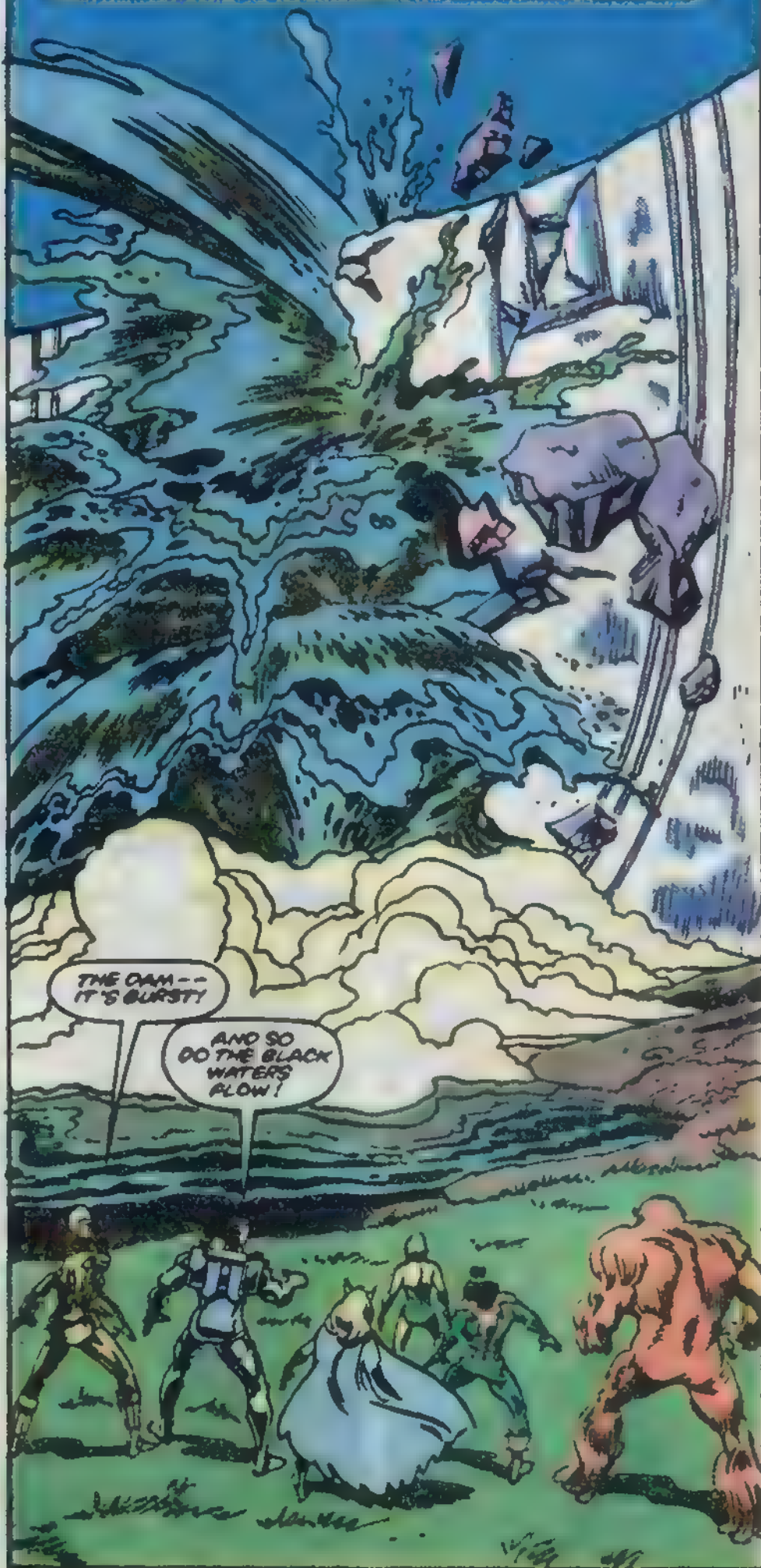
WAIT! DO YOU HEAR THAT SOUND?!

TWO SOUNDS COUPLED, TO BE PRECISE

THE FIRST SOUND BEING UNEARTHLY
LAUGHTER FROM DEEP IN THE DARK
EARTH ITSELF, BUT THAT SOUND IS
OBSCURED BY ANOTHER, GREATER
SOUND ..



...ONE WHICH THREATENS TO DROWN OUT NOT ONLY ALL
OTHER SOUNDS, BUT TO OVERWHELM THE ENTIRE EARTH
ITSELF...



THE DAM--
IT'S BURST!

AND SO
DO THE BLACK
WATERS
FLOW!

...THE BLACK WRATH-TAINTED WATERS, WASHING IN TOXIC WAVES
ACROSS THE FACE OF THE POISONED EARTH!

NEXT: SCENES OF DESTRUCTION ON EVERY HAND, BLACK WATERS, BLACK
WATERS, BLACK WATERS RUSH DOWN ON MY LAND!

SPACE NOTES

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Guys,

ROM #51 was neat! This is the first time I've ever written to Marvel, so it feels sort of awkward, but expressing my feelings for ROM doesn't! ROM is a magnificent comic!! I would rate it among the best in history.

In ROM #50, the Skrulls say that the Dire Wraiths are deviants of the Skrull race. I read in MARVEL UNIVERSE that the Skrulls themselves are deviants. Does this qualify me for a No-Prize?

Rom's change of tactics — that is, his going public — was really rather sudden. But, at least, the United States at large knows about the Wraith threat. Rom's speech had impact! It got me looking under my bed for those crummy shape-shifters. I can't wait for issue #52. See you in thirty!

Paul Higgins
(no address given)

Actually, Paul, the general population still does not know about the Wraith threat. Because there was no confirmation from the government, those who heard Rom's speech are highly suspicious of what they heard. Of course, the higher levels of our government do know of the Wraith's existence and are working with Rom to eradicate that threat.

Dear Marvel,

I thought issue #51 was great! I haven't collected ROM for very long, but as of now, he is one of my favorites! The art was as great as ever, as was the story of Rom's career from his origin to the present day. Thanks for a great issue!

Kirk Gartside
Vernon, CT 06066

Dear ROMans,

I'll be frank with you concerning issue #51. I felt somewhat duped out of a month's anticipation. Having all the issues to date, I must say I saw nothing I have not already seen. I understand that this issue was probably meant to benefit the new reader, but I was disappointed.

Changing the subject, I still am unable to convince myself that all those Rom and Brandy loved are dead. They just cannot die like that... can they? You must have something up your sleeve.

Oh, yes, I salute you on the fine job of changing Starshine's armor. It's definitely better.

D. J. Oliver
Tucson, AZ 85716

P.S. There must be SOME Wraiths on this side of the United States. Now come on!

Of course there are, D. J.! They've just done such a fine job of integrating themselves into human society that Rom hasn't tracked them down yet. So, if we were you, we'd look at our neighbors very closely... there's no telling which one of 'em might turn out to be a visitor from the Black Nebula.

As for Steve Jackson, Mr. and Mrs.

Clark and the Torpedo — they are really dead. No tricks. Just the sad truth.

Dear Marvel,

Since you guys seem to love killing off all the people in this book, I have some ideas for you.

For starters, Starshine can be destroyed by the living light of Galador because she is unworthy to use its power. Then the Wraiths can stage a comeback with some new device that guarantees a Wraith takeover!

OK, enough with this sarcasm, my only question is: watta matta wid you? I can almost understand the deaths of Firefall and the Terminator, but almost everyone in Clairton dying is going too far! One of the worst things about issue #50 was that Starshine / Brandy went mad.

Tony Hunter
(no address given)

Starshine is not insane, Tony. She is, however, obsessed with the idea of vengeance for the deaths of her friends and family. She knows exactly what she is doing, which gives Rom all the more reason to grieve over the change in the once-peaceful Brandy Clark.

Dear Ralph and Bob,

All right! ROM has finally wised up with issue #51. From now on, he has pledged that if he encounters any Wraith in the midst of their evil work, he will no longer simply banish them to Limbo, but he will slay them. (By the way, what if all the Wraiths that Rom has banished to Limbo find a way to escape? Ulp!)

I love seeing Rom adopt this new attitude, but I feel a little uncomfortable seeing Starshine (Brandy) share this same fervor. After all, she has been a spaceknight for only a few weeks. Besides, I think her judgement is clouded by the shock of the recent death of her family. She should take some time to gather her wits before she blindly throws herself into an all-out war with Wraithkind. She's definitely not ready for that.

Remember, war is hell! Not only for the combatants, but also for the innocents who get swept up in the course of events.

Donovan Ice
Elizabethtown, PA

No one knows that better than Starshine, Donovan. That is the primary reason she is determined to destroy the Wraith presence on Earth. She doesn't want any more innocents like her parents to die.

You're right when you say it would have been better if Starshine had taken some time to recover from the loss of her parents and friends. But events have been moving so quickly since the Clairton Massacre that Brandy has not had the opportunity to deal with her grief properly. And if you think that's going to present some problems in the future... well, then you must be a clairvoyant, fella.

Dear ROMulans,

I loved everything about ROM #51... except Starshine / Brandy. I'm worried about her bloodthirstiness, as much as Rom is.

One thing I am not in agreement with Rom about is his statement that she should not kill Dire Wraiths. How else can she combat them? She can't (as far as we know) banish them into Limbo as Rom does, and blinding them wouldn't do a heckuva lot. Killing them is the only way for Starshine to really stop them.

Rom once told the late Torpedo that the Wraiths were a race deserving death. He also told Torpedo not to worry if he killed them. Rom reported that the original Starshine could not take a life (unless it was to save the life of another) because she had sworn a Galadorian oath. However, Brandy Clark is not the original Starshine! My point is (if you didn't already see it) that killing the Wraith monsters is the only way to stop them. Starshine should do so, but she should not terrorize innocent people in the process.

Troy Wilson
(no address given)

Starshine's new attitude is certainly eliciting a lot of response, Troy. While no one would suggest that the Wraiths do not deserve to die, least of all Rom, some would find something a little disturbing about Brandy's all-out blood lust (as Donovan Ice does above). It is one thing to take a life in the defense of your planet. It is quite another to enjoy doing so. And that is the crux of the Rom / Starshine controversy.

Dear Ralph and Bob,

I would like to ask a question about recent issues of ROM. If the United States and other nations are now at war with the Dire Wraiths, wouldn't this war affect other super-heroes like the Fantastic Four and the Avengers?

Patrick Reynolds
3816 Boundary
San Diego, CA 92104

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